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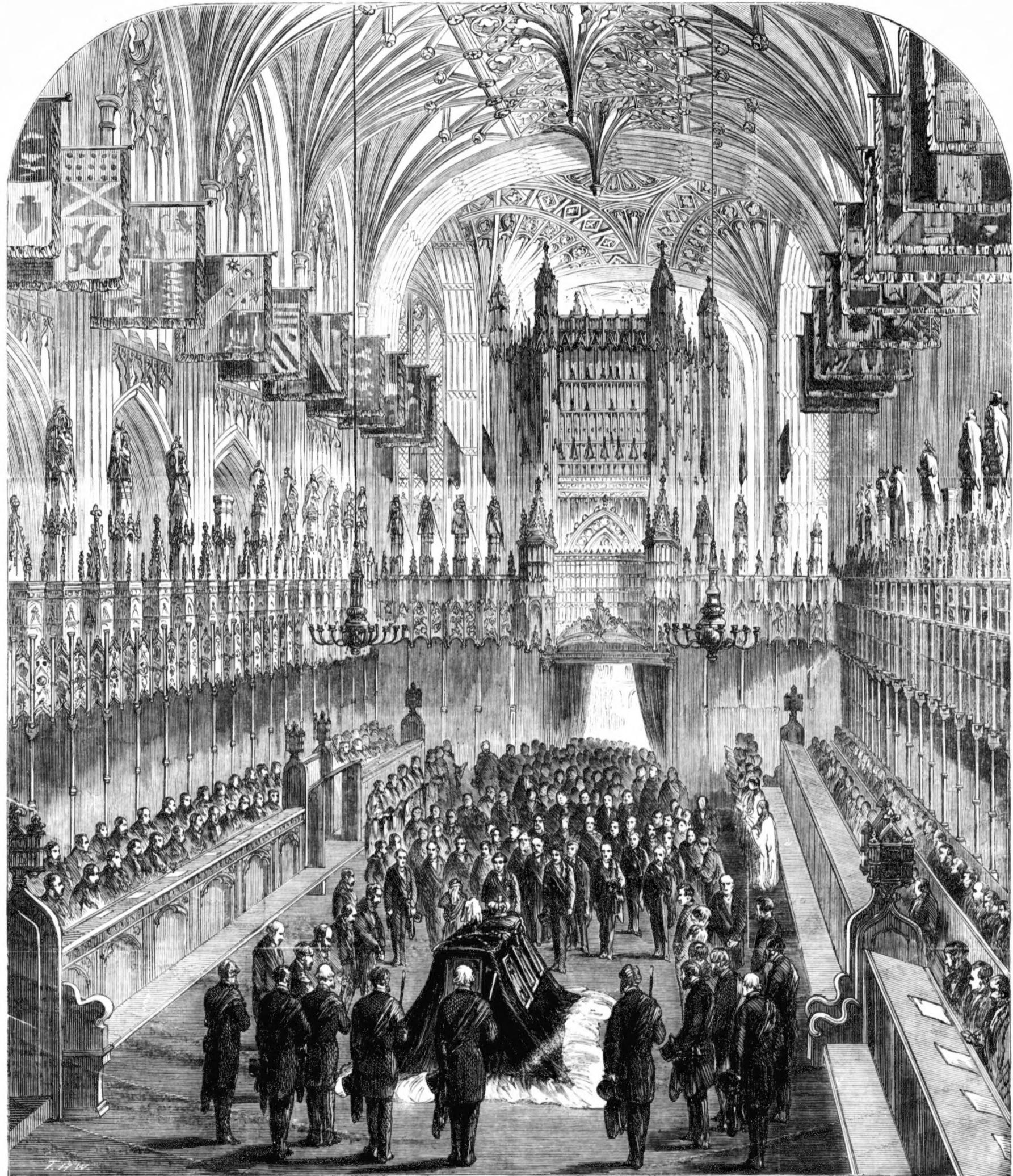
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TOPICS OF THE DAY.

It is the fashion to call every year that passes an especially memorable and wonderful one. There can, however, be no exaggeration in saying that the year that has so recently ended has been one politically of considerable moment.

In that twelve months we have seen what was flippantly and inappropriately called "the bursting of the great American bubble." What we have really seen has been a sad fulfilment of many a political prophecy—the development of ideas long ventilated—the embodiment of schemes discussed two decades

of years ago in the States of North and South. As far as Europe has been concerned, the melancholy forebodings indulged in at the beginning of the last year have not been realised. It was then predicted that war must break out on the Continent, and that in *that war* England would inevitably



FUNERAL OF HIS LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE CONSORT.—THE SERVICE IN THE CHOIR.

be involved. European affairs, however, would seem to have become almost insignificant in the presence of the great Transatlantic struggle, and the too probable prospect of hostilities between America and England.

If we do not go to war with our Yankee brethren it certainly will not be their fault—at all events, if we may judge by the tone assumed by them ever since the occurrence which supplied the cause of dispute between us and them. Peace will result, not from any consideration or moderation on their part, but from our own sound good sense, our great forbearance, and our conscious superiority. Nothing can be worse than the tone of the majority of their journals and every other ebullition of public opinion which has come under our cognisance. They have clearly, in some hour of folly and fatuity, persuaded themselves that they are too strong for the "Old Country," and that in any war with England they must be victorious. They appear to forget how large have been our recent experiences in the art of war. They apparently do not remember all that we suffered and all that we did in the Crimea; the great rebellion in India and the heroic courage with which it was quelled. Their navy cannot be for one instant compared to ours; and yet, such is their individual and national taste for swaggering and boasting, that any Northern American would try to persuade his audience and himself that they could blow our fleet out of the water with the greatest facility. We have no doubt about their courage, for we know the race to which they belong, and that valour is one of its chief attributes; but there can be little doubt that from some cause—either the climate or their mode of life, and their large indulgence in alcoholic drinks—the Americans, as a people, have physically and morally deteriorated during the last quarter of a century. Of this their conduct in their first encounter with the Confederate troops at Manassas Gap is a sufficient proof, whatever excuses may be alleged for the awful panic by which they were seized. A letter written at Paris by Mr. John Mitchell puts the question of war between Great Britain and the Federal States of America on the lowest grounds of expediency upon which it could be argued. The North, he states, has now embodied an enormous army for which it must find employment. He forgets that there is ample employment for it in the South, and that, as yet, it is an army which has not achieved a victory or won a laurel. There is much truth, however, in some parts of his statement. "Within the short nine months of this war," he writes, "the whole Government and social system of the Northern States has been shaken to its foundations. The President and his Ministers have set the example of violating all law, and establishing a mere military rule—a perilous example to half a million of armed men if they are now sent adrift to live as they best can. Amongst these soldiers are the worst of the rowdy population of the cities, and thousands of convicts out of the State prisons. In sending forth those fellows to subdue the South, New York hoped never to see their faces again; and if they were now to come back amongst an impoverished community, rendered more atrocious than ever by military habits and inflated with the *esprit de corps*—decent people would be obliged to emigrate to Europe. In short, Mr. Lincoln's Government holds a wolf by the ears." Therefore, Mr. Mitchell argues, it is expedient for the Yankees to go to war with England, in order to find employment for this dangerous class of citizens: a doctrine as immoral as it would certainly be found to be ineffectual.

It is most satisfactory to find that France is animated by feelings so friendly towards us at such a crisis as this; but there is certainly something more than pure friendship in her interest in the impending struggle. In the *Patrie* an article of some significance has appeared arguing that England's first step will be the recognition of the South, but averring that that step must not be an isolated one on our part, for that, if so, it would tend "to re-establish the preponderance of England over her old colonies." The French will not hear of the Southern Republic becoming an English colony. The alarm, however, is vain and groundless. All that the South asks for is independence and self-government. Although there is in some of the Confederate States a strong monarchical sympathy and a strong feeling in favour of England, there is very small prospect, if the South can establish its nationality by this war, of its placing itself under the protection or tutelage of any other Government. It would be a most unwise confession of weakness, of which we cannot for one instant imagine the Confederates would be guilty.

From every quarter have poured in condolences expressed in the most loyal and affectionate language of respect and devotion to her Gracious Majesty on her late sad bereavement. Corporations and municipal bodies of every kind have vied with each other in expressing their sorrow at the loss of a Prince of such eminent virtues and distinguished abilities. The throne of England will no longer during the present reign be regarded with calm and dignified respect as a great institution. The national feeling towards it will be one of personal devotion and chivalrous regard. The widowed Queen of England, even in her greatest, saddest loss, has in one sense gained: for there has now sprung up towards her a feeling which was not called forth while she had the guidance and succour of her Royal Consort. She has by her wise rule and the brilliant example of domestic virtues made Constitutional Monarchy daily more and more popular in England; and it is well that the Throne should be endeared to the hearts of the English people, with crimson war looming in the future through a long vista of years to come.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor on Wednesday received the diplomatic and legislative bodies, according to custom, on the opening of the new year. In addressing the diplomatic body the Emperor adverted generally to the events of the past year which have more or less affected European Governments, and alluded to the many losses which have been felt by the Royal families of Europe. But he does not appear to have uttered any word which could throw a light upon the course of foreign policy France is likely to pursue in regard to any of the great questions which will probably agitate the world this year. The ceremonial seems to have presented no feature of political importance. Lord Cowley was absent in consequence of the mourning of the English Court. Count Kisseloff spoke in the name of the diplomatic body.

The attention of the Parisians has been divided for some days past between anxiety about the answer from the Washington Cabinet to the requisitions of England and the warnings to the press as to discussing the merits of the Constitution. M. de Persigny seems determined to keep up the system of official interference with the press—very unwisely, as almost everybody concurs in thinking.

Notwithstanding the promise of the Emperor not to resort again to the system of extraordinary credits, the *Bulletin des Lois* publishes two decrees granting supplementary credits to the amount, together, of above sixteen million francs. This, perhaps, is not a real violation of the Emperor's promise, the money being required to meet expenses incurred under the old system.

The Minister of Public Worship and Instruction has issued a circular enforcing restrictions on religious proselytism among children under age or under parental guardianship. Educational establishments are warned against allowing any infringement on the rights and attributions of the family, from whatever quarter such attempts are made; and the evidence on a late trial respecting a juvenile Jewish convert is pointedly alluded to.

M. Mirès and his companion, Count Simeon, have been so far fortunate in their appeal to the Cour de Cassation, the highest tribunal of France. They have not, indeed, obtained a reversal of the sentence pronounced against them, but they have succeeded in quashing it; and the Court has ordered that the case shall be tried over again before the Provincial Tribunal.

The *Moniteur* announces the appointment of two vice-admirals, three rear-admirals, 10 captains, and 40 lieutenants of men-of-war, and 14 captains of frigates.

FRANCE AND SWITZERLAND.

The French Government has replied to the note of the Swiss Federal authorities on the affair of the Dappenthal, and declines to give any satisfaction, on the ground that no violation of Swiss territory took place.

ITALY.

The Italian Parliament having adjourned for the Christmas holidays, the political news from Turin is confined to records of Ministerial troubles, Baron Ricasoli experiencing great difficulties in filling up the vacant office of Minister of the Interior. Some people seem to think that Ricasoli will shortly have to give way, and allow of Ratazzi assuming the direction of affairs. Garibaldi was expected in Turin on the 1st inst.

Despatches from Naples state that many brigands have been made prisoners. Some brigand chiefs had offered to surrender, on condition of being allowed to enjoy their liberty on one of the Neapolitan islands. The famous brigand chief, Chiavone, is stated, on what appears to be good authority, to be at present detained in a sort of qualified captivity by the French military power in Rome—not actually kept a prisoner, but not permitted to make any further incursions into the territories of King Victor Emmanuel.

There are rumours of conspiracies in Sicily, the Lieutenant of which, Signor Pettinengo, was reported to have tendered his resignation. Bourbon emissaries are said to be active in the island.

The Marquis de Lavalette, French Ambassador at Rome, has been urging the propriety of Francis II. leaving Rome, and, it is said, offered the ex-King an asylum in France; but Cardinal Antonelli, supported by the Ministers of Austria and Spain, has replied to the remonstrances of France in strong terms, and it is added that Francis II. will remain in Rome as long as he pleases, in spite of what France may say.

The Papal budget of expenses for 1862 is officially stated at ten millions of scudi (53,000,000£) for a population of 500,000 souls. This heavy sum is chiefly owing to the cost of the Papal army, which consists of 10,000 men, being to the population as 1 to 500. The same proportion applied to France would give an army of 1,800,000 men.

Vesuvius is still more or less in eruption. A correspondent, writing on the 24th ult., says:—"Vesuvius again! Such a night was that which is past! A hurricane of wind from the north-east, and a storm of ashes from the mountain. Two elements were striving for the mastery, and the roaring of each kept me awake the greater part of the night." The *Official Journal* appeals to public benevolence in behalf of "24,000 persons who are deprived of bed, food, and subsistence."

PORTUGAL.

The King opened the Cortes on the 23rd ult., and again took the oath to the Constitution. His Majesty delivered a speech on the occasion, which is a very modest and sensible document, and well calculated to enlist the sympathies and gain the confidence of his subjects. He promised to follow the example set by his late brother, to govern according to law, to strive to develop the resources and increase the prosperity and happiness of his people, and said that he depended much on the support and assistance of the representatives of the people in carrying out these resolutions. His Majesty's address gave universal satisfaction.

The Prince João died on the 30th ult. An examination of his body has been made by the physicians, who have certified that the cause of death was typhoid fever.

The almost mysterious mortality and sickness among the Royal family of Portugal has made a serious impression on the people of Lisbon, and driven them into a state of excitement akin to madness. In their blind fury they have broken into the chemists' shops and destroyed every drug of a poisonous description, their impression being that the Royal family has been, by some means or other, poisoned. The city was thrown into perfect confusion, and several persons are said to have been wounded in the riots. At the urgent request of the people, the King has left his palace at Lisbon and taken up his residence at the Palace of Coxias. The body of the late King is to be disinterred and analysed, and a commission has been appointed to examine and report on the sanitary condition of the Lisbon palace.

The latest advices state that the King is well, that the street disturbances have been suppressed by the military, and that continued tranquillity is probable.

AUSTRIA.

A rumour has been current on the Vienna Bourse that a considerable reduction of the Austrian Army is intended.

It is asserted that the Austrian Cabinet has resolved not to force the Hungarians to accept the Constitution of February last, but to be satisfied if they agree to the diploma of October, 1860. This resolution is said to have been taken in consequence of a declaration of the Chancellor for Hungary to the effect that he would not remain in office unless concessions were made by the Government.

Some disturbances have taken place in Lemberg, Austrian Poland. During the celebration of high mass in the church of St. Bernard, on

Sunday, Polish national songs were sung, notwithstanding the prohibition of the authorities. Some of the police who attempted to make arrests were, it is said, insulted and roughly treated. In the evening the streets of the town were crowded by masses of people, and several individuals were arrested. This is, however, the Austrian version of the affair, and must not be received with unqualified credit.

PRUSSIA.

The *Prussian Moniteur* publishes a Royal decree convoking the two Chambers of Parliament for the 11th inst. It is thought at Berlin that the extraordinary credits for the augmentation of the army will be rejected.

WURTEMBERG.

The Chamber of Peers of Wurtemberg have abolished the Concordat concluded with Rome in 1857. The Chamber of Deputies had already passed the bill for this purpose. This result is justly described by a journal as "a victory of the spirit of the nineteenth century over the tendencies to religious domination revived from times which henceforth belong to history."

DENMARK.

The Session of the Danish Diet, which was opened on the 5th of October, has been closed. It terminated its labours on the 21st ult., when a Royal message was read declaring the thirteenth ordinary Session of the Rigsdag over. All the members of the two Chambers were asked by the King on the following Sunday to a gala banquet at his country seat of Fredensborg, situate about five Danish miles from Copenhagen.

On the 23rd ult. the Council of State of Copenhagen resolved to send a reply of a very decided character to the joint notes of Prussia and Austria.

POLAND.

The news from Poland continues to be very distressing. The Polish journals of Galicia and of the Grand Duchy of Posen publish a long list of condemnations, in which the names of priests and nobles are seen by the side of those of artisans. The places of banishment include such spots as Irkoulsk, Kasan, Orenbourg, and Vologda. Nor is Warsaw alone that furnishes the Russian Government with means for this compulsory colonisation; the provinces also send their contingent. Six young gentlemen of the town of Kalish have passed through Warsaw to be transported to the Caucasus or Siberia. M. Hube, the new Minister of Public Worship, had ordered the heads of monasteries and priests to open their respective churches within twenty-four hours or he would have them all arrested and sent to the citadel. To this menace the clergy had unanimously resolved to send a negative answer. Discontent is again reported as showing itself in the Russian army.

The first Session of the Council of State, instituted six months ago, for the kingdom of Poland, was closed on the 12th. On that occasion General Luders congratulated the members of the Assembly on the care which they had devoted to the examination of the bills on public instruction and on the admission of Jews to the enjoyment of civil rights. He, moreover, reminded them that some propositions tending to improve the internal administration of the country were due to the initiative of the Council, and he promised that those useful works should be made known to the Emperor. As to the bill relative to the question of the peasants, the General declared that it had not been sufficiently examined by the authorities to be submitted to the Council.

TURKEY AND MONTENEGRO.

A few days ago the Turkish market town of Steppes was surprised by the insurgents, who pillaged the place and burnt six houses. The inhabitants were compelled to take to flight, leaving behind many killed, wounded, and prisoners.

The Montenegrins, who had occupied Selza and Karnitz, have withdrawn from those places.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

The telegraphic news from China represents Prince Kung as still using his influence to promote a good understanding between the Chinese authorities and the foreign representatives. The rebels were becoming extremely troublesome. They had gathered in the vicinity of Ningpo, from which city the inhabitants were flying to take refuge in Shanghai, where the recent alarm had subsided. The rebels are also reported to have invested Hangchow. At Hangkow the Braves have been attacking the foreigners and issuing threats to exterminate them.

There is no change in the state of affairs in Japan. English men-of-war were cruising among the islands for the protection of British subjects.

The accounts from Saigon, in Cochin China, are still unfavourable to the French. Nothing decisive, however, had taken place. The King was fortifying Hue, and was said to be determined to fight to the last extremity.

AFFAIRS IN AMERICA.

The steam-ship Africa, which was most anxiously expected, arrived from America on Wednesday. She had been detained by Lord Lyons from the 18th to the 20th ult. The following is a summary of the news received by her:

The Europa, carrying the official despatches from the British Government to Lord Lyons, arrived at New York on the 18th ult., and her mails were delivered the same day.

The popular excitement was much increased by the news of the warlike preparations in England brought by that steamer. After the receipt of the advices per Europe and Jura, the popular feeling against giving up Messrs. Mason and Slidell did not appear to be so strong as it had been. An impression prevailed very generally that the Federal Government would not go to war on this question, and that if the demands of the British Government for the surrender of Messrs. Mason and Slidell were couched in moderate language they would be complied with. The tone of the New York press was also more moderate.

The House of Representatives had refused to pass a resolution pledging itself to support the act of Commander Wilks without referring the resolution to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

The latest advices received from Washington report that Lord Lyons had not yet delivered any official despatches to the Federal Government.

It was remarked that at the President's last levee neither the English, French, nor Prussian Ministers were present.

Mr. Secretary Chase, at a Bank meeting, expressed an opinion that by January the Federal naval and military operations would give decisive results, and that the British question was capable of, and would receive, a pacific solution.

The Europa had been outstripped by several other steamers which left this country after her, and the news they conveyed of the very decided expression of opinion on this side of the Atlantic as to the Trent affair had caused immense excitement in New York and Washington, and the tone of the papers was rather defiant. By the time the Africa left, however, the feeling seems to have considerably calmed down, and we may, perhaps, hope that an amicable settlement of the difficulty may yet be arrived at; and this hope is to a certain degree countenanced by the tone of the following despatch from Washington, which appeared in the *New York Times* of the 19th ult.:—"A Cabinet was held to-day, at which the English question was discussed—of course informally, as the nature of the despatches brought by the Royal messenger had not been divulged. There was but one sentiment prevalent, and that was that no quarrel with England must be permitted to interfere at this moment to stay the reduction of the Southern rebels. The Government is probably satisfied that the clamour for a war with England

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originates with and is propagated by sympathisers with the Southern rebellion. It knows that nothing would so gratify the rebels, would so restore their vanishing confidence and reinvigorate them to redoubled efforts at defence, as the news that England is permitted to come to their rescue. It believes it has no right to give new life to the rebellion by entering upon another and vaster quarrel, which would at the same time increase ten-fold the burdens upon the people of the North; and it naturally hesitates to adopt a policy which would carry joy to every traitor in the country, and weigh down to poverty the loyal and law-abiding citizen. But, whether these or other considerations govern in the matter, I have the best authority for saying the demands of England will be met in a spirit of conciliation, which will at once refute the calumny that Mr. Seward or any other member of the Cabinet has been eager to provoke a foreign war. The intelligence received by the Jura that the despatches with which Slidell and Mason were intrusted reached England notwithstanding their arrest renders the question as to the disposition of the persons of the rebel envoys one of secondary moment, and a most inadequate one on which to base a great international struggle. It will be borne in mind that the Administration is still uncommitted on the Trent business. The subject was not mentioned in the President's Message; and the language of Secretary Welles in his report and his letter to Captain Wilks, are rather professional and personal than diplomatic, and in no degree bind the State Department. Of one thing the public may rest assured, the subject will not be settled without an important curtailment of the English pretensions to enforce a right of search which she finds it so unpalatable to concede to other Powers."

There was little to report in regard to the progress of the war. Little fighting had taken place, and that little was of a very unimportant character. Much was talked of the effects of the "stone fleets" dispatched to the South, and the damage the shutting up of the harbours would inflict upon the Confederates.

Two Federal regiments have landed at Ship Island. General Phelps, on landing, issued a proclamation declaring that his command would be governed by the idea that everything that has been admitted into the Union as a Slave State since the adoption of the Constitution has been admitted in violation of that Constitution. It is reported that the proclamation had caused dissatisfaction among the Federal fleet. An inquiry has been made in Congress to ascertain on what authority the proclamation was issued.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill appropriating 1,000,000 dols. for the construction of gun-boats to be stationed in the Western waters. Congress has appropriated 1000 dols. for compensation to the owners of the British ship Perthshire.

A destructive fire had occurred at Charleston, South Carolina. A large portion of the city and the leading public buildings were destroyed.

The British ship Cheshire, captured off Tybee Island, had arrived at New York in charge of a prize crew.

The Southern Congress, while in Session, passed a bill admitting Kentucky into the Confederacy. The admission is complete, as commissioners were appointed at Russellville, and empowered to act in behalf of Kentucky. A bill has been introduced into the Confederate Congress, prohibiting the importation of negroes from America.

On the arrival of the Europa at Halifax on the 15th ult. the British steamer Rinaldo at once sailed from Halifax with despatches for the North American squadron.

The action of the Home Government is strongly approved in Canada. The 62nd and 63rd Regiments are under orders at Halifax for Canada.

BUNKUM MADDER THAN EVER.

We extract the following passages from a recent letter of "Manhattan," in the London Standard, to show the spirit which animates the people of the Federal States, if it be true, as the writer asserts, that he speaks the sentiments of at least seven-eighths of the inhabitants of the North, and the rash and reckless way in which such grave topics as those mentioned are dealt with by our Transatlantic consmen—friends they cannot be called:—

There are no parties now at the North that favour the Southern rebellion. All feeling is now dead. It is different from what it was six months ago. I write the feelings of seven-eighths of the Northern people, who have their interests South, and I write the feelings of another class, those whose relations, whose property, are at the South. Let everything go rather than lose our nation. Perish family—perish property—take our chance—but preserve our nationality. Support Lincoln. Fraternity with an Abolitionist. Ride in a railroad car with a nigger—anything to preserve our nationality. So all feel. Every bank feels it. Every moneyed corporation feels it. Every person who has a dollar feels it. "Give every cent we possess to support the President to save the nation." Far and wide, deeper and deeper is felt the sentiment—human life is worthless if we cannot save the nation. Let us give all—not one out of fifty—but if need be, every third man who is fit for military duty, and that will make 5,000,000 of men—to save the nation.

Why need this nation to dread war? We want war. If we had a war every ten years with some European nation we should have had no rebellion. We should have a fleet as large as England or France has. We should have had experienced Generals. We should have had a million of men; and we should have had now, what we will have ten years hence, the respect of every foreign Power.

A war with England, and brought on by the British Ministers, to uphold slavery in the United States, will unite the people of Canada as one man to the United States of North America. Mexico is certain to be annexed. It burns in men's minds. People talk of the disgrace of permitting that republic to be invaded by the cowardly troops of Spain. We only want our chance; we only want to see the set-up that will authorise the President of the United States to say, "Go in and win;" and if we do not drive out every Spaniard from Mexico, and annex it to the United States before next winter, then I do not understand my own countrymen. All this will happen. If England's Ministers unite with the rebels, slavery must go to the wall. The handwriting that says so grows larger every day. It is doomed. War only makes it more certain. If the rebels "caved-in" tomorrow I am afraid slavery would be saved in seven of the fifteen States that now permit it. Slavery would be lost in the other eight States. If the rebellion lasts one year longer there will not be a slave in the United States. The war may cost us 500,000,000 dols. To free slaves by purchase, even if the rebel owners would consent, would cost us 400,000,000 dollars. So I think it will be economy to let the war last until the slaves get free by their own act, and not by purchase.

This country has for years, or until this rebellion broke out, actually shaped our tariff to please the English people. We had no public debt, a small army and navy—had a large revenue from public lands, and did not require a heavy tariff, and we could afford to make a light tax on all English goods. It was an accidental tariff, and not protection at all. How in future years will the manufacturers of England regard the British Ministers who have been the means of reversing all this? They turned the cold shoulder to a friendly nation, opened negotiations with a lot of mad rebels, and have cast the Government of the United States perhaps a thousand million dollars to end the rebellion. Who will have to bear a part of this shot? Who will suffer as well as we? The natural and inevitable result must be that for a whole generation at least we shall put a high tariff upon English-manufactured goods. Manchester, Sheffield, Birmingham, and Paisley will have rivals springing up in every village in America. The duties will be not so high as to be prohibitory, but they will bear a high tax upon English goods, which will diminish their importation to a certain extent until we can wholly supply ourselves. All ideas of reducing a tariff upon English goods is hopeless for a long time.

ALLEGED NEGRO CONSPIRACY AT THE SOUTH.

From the advance sheets of the *Continental Magazine* we extract the following statements, which the writer claims to be simply true, without exaggeration or distortion of any kind. He visited South Carolina shortly before the passage of the Secession ordinance. He had with him an intelligent negro servant, and was on his way to visit a rich planter. Not far from the house he was met by the carriage of his host, in which was the body servant of the planter. The interview between the two negroes and its results are thus described:—

"Jim, this is Scip," I said, seeing that the darkeys had taken no notice of each other.

"How d'ye do, Scipio?" said Jim, extending his hand to him. A look of singular intelligence passed over the faces of the two negroes as their

hands met. It vanished in an instant, and was so slight that none but a close observer would have detected it; but some words that Scip had previously let drop put me on the alert, and I felt sure it had a hidden significance.

"Won't you get into de carriage, massa?" inquired Jim.

"No, thank you, Jim. I'll ride on with Scip. Our horse is jaded, and you had better go ahead."

Jim mounted the driver's seat, turned the carriage, and drove off at a brisk pace to announce our coming at the plantation, while Scip and I rode on at a slower gait.

"Scip, did you know Jim before?" I asked.

"N—ber seen him afor', massa, but hab hearn ob him."

"How is it that you have lived in Georg'town for five years, and he only seventy miles off, and you never have seen him?"

"I cud hab seed him, massa, good many time, ef I'd liked, but darkeys hab to be careful."

"Careful of what?"

"Careful of who dey knows; good many bad niggas bout."

"P—haw, Scip, you're 'coming the possum,' that game won't work with me. There isn't a better nigger than Jim in all South Carolina. I know him well."

"P'raps he am; reckon he am a good enuff niggga."

"Good enough niggga, Scip! Why, I tell you, he's a splendid fellow; just as true as steel. He's been north with the Colonel, often, and the abolitionists have tried to get him away: he knew he could go, but wouldn't budge an inch."

"I knew he wouldn't," said the darkey, a pleasurable gleam passing through his eyes; "dat sort don't run; dey face de music!"

"Why don't they run? What do you mean?"

"Nuffin', massa—only dey'd ruther stay har."

"Come, Scip, you've played this game long enough. Tell me, now, what that look you gave each other when you shook hands meant?"

"What look, massa? Oh! I's pose 'twar 'cause we'd both heerd ob each other afore."

"It was more than that, Scip. Be frank; you know you can trust me."

"Wal den, massa," he replied, adding, after a short pause, "de ole woman called you a Yankee—you can guess."

"If I should guess, 'twould be that it meant mischief."

"It don't mean mischief, Sar," said the darkey, with a tone and air that would not have disgraced a Cabinet officer; "it only mean right and justice."

"It means that there is some secret understanding between you."

"I told you, massa," he replied, relapsing into his usual manner, "dat de blacks am all freemasons. I gibe Jim the grip, and he know'd me. He'd ha known my name if you hadn't tolle him."

"Why would he have known your name?"

"Cause I gave dae grip. Dat tolle him."

"Why did he call you Scipio? I called you Scip."

"Oh! de darkeys all do that. Nobody but the white folks call me Scip. I can't say no more, massa. I should break de oath if I did!"

"You have said enough, Scipio, to satisfy me that there is a secret league among the blacks, and that you are a leader in it. Now, I tell you, you'll get yourself into a scrape. I've taken a liking to you, Scip, and I should be very sorry to see you run yourself into danger."

"I tank you, massa—from de bottom ob my soul I tank you," he said, as the tears moistened his eyes. "You very kinl, massa; it do me good to talk wid you. But what am my life wuth? What am any slave's life wuth? Ef you war me you'd do like me!"

I could not deny it, and made no reply.

The writer of this article is aware that he is here making an important statement, and one that may be called in question by those persons who are accustomed to regard the Southern blacks as only reasoning brutes. The great mass of them are but a little above the brutes in their habits and instincts, but a large body are fully on a par, except in mere book education, with their white masters.

The conversation above recorded is, *verbatim et literatim*, true. It took place at the time indicated, and was taken down, as were other conversations recorded in these papers, within twenty-four hours after its occurrence. The name and the locality I have, for evident reasons, disguised.

From this and other conversations the writer deduces—nay, he declares that he knows it to be a fact—that there exists among the blacks a secret and widespread organisation of a Masonic character, having its grip, pass-word, and oath. "It has various grades of leaders, who are competent and earnest men, and its ultimate object is freedom."

IRELAND.

BREAK-UP OF THE NATIONALIST ORGANISATION.—The new national organisation which was to result from the late "mass meeting," and to liberate Ireland from the British yoke by means of the war with America, has proved an utter abortion. The confession of its failure is made by the *Nation* in a manifesto of three or four columns on "The Year Before Us."

The organ of the Young Ireland party says:—"It is a helpless plight for a nation to sit still while almost before its eyes and in its hearing two neighbouring Powers discuss or plan the shaping or marring of its destinies for purposes and policy of their own. To this plight has Ireland come." The Nationalists sit by "as helpless, as abject as the negroes of the Confederate States," and, like them, not intrusted with arms, though their masters say they are contended, happy, and loyal. The work of national organisation, commented twelve months ago by four of the most trusted leaders of the party, has been now abandoned. Two parties we are told strive, or for some time past have striven, to prevent even an attempt to establish such a national organisation. "There are, on the one hand, the ultra-English party, who are for complete provincialism, or national extinction; and, on the other, the ultra-revolutionary party, who are for complete separation. In utter and deadly opposition to each other, they nevertheless have a common policy—and a very intelligible one—in preventing any organisation being set up to speak authoritatively in the national name."

THE ALLEGED DISTRESS IN THE WEST.—The Dublin correspondent of a daily contemporary makes the following remarks in reference to the alleged distress in the West of Ireland, and the statements made throw light on the act of the Federal Congress on the subject of Irish distress, the motives which dictate the said act being tolerably apparent:—"It is a significant circumstance, and one that cannot have escaped the Lord Lieutenant's notice, that the famine outcry is every day lessening in intensity. Thanks to the energy and liberality of the landlords resident in the destitute localities, the immediate necessities of the people have been relieved, and before long they will receive additional and substantial aid from the funds that are being collected in various parts of the provinces. The Ultra-montane journals, on receipt of news from New York to the effect that money was in process of collection there for the starving Irish, began again their sensation articles; but, as some of the Roman Catholic organs discovered behind this American sympathy with Ireland a desire to encourage emigration to the States, which has now wholly ceased, with the object of gaining recruits for its army, the papers alluded to have ceased their circulation of extravagant stories about the west. The extreme anxiety of the Americans to revive emigration from Ireland is shown by the articles that have lately appeared in the New York press endeavouring to prove that the States are now as good a field for emigrants as ever they were. Those who emigrated, however, would soon be obliged to enlist or starve—an alternative the New York organs had in view in inviting emigrants to the States."

THE EARL OF CLANCARTY AND THE ALLEGED DISTRESS.—The Earl of Clancarty, in reply to an application for a contribution to a fuel relief fund at Ballinasloe, states that he has made arrangements by which all persons in the town and district can have fuel from his plantations on as moderate terms as it could be had in ordinary years. He has also raised the wages of his labourers 2d. a day, and he offers employment to every man in the town and district who needs it. He takes the opportunity of adding that the distress in the country has been much exaggerated. Looking at the market notes he finds that while potatoes are not higher in price than last year, meat and bread are lower, and for the last three weeks there has been excess of discharges over admissions to the workhouse. He expresses his regret, therefore, that persons at a distance should have been applied to for elemosynary aid to the poor of Ballinasloe. "Poor," he says, "there will be in every town; but Ballinasloe holds a position of independence in the thrift and commercial enterprise of its citizens, and in the number and respectability of other residents in and about it, that should prevent our ever drawing upon strangers for the relief of our poor." Several other noblemen and gentlemen have adopted similar measures, and the opinion is generally expressed that the efforts of the landlords and the local poor-relief machinery will be sufficient to meet the emergency.—A deputation from the Dublin Corporation waited on the Lord Lieutenant on Monday, and, in reply to their representations on the subject of the alleged distress, his Lordship, while admitting that suffering might exist to some extent, said he hoped and believed that the existing machinery and the exertions of the benevolent would be sufficient to meet the necessities of the case, without the intervention of the Government.

THE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT IN THE WEST OF IRELAND.—The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland received a deputation on Saturday on the subject of the Shannon works and the drainage of the adjoining districts. The Marquis of Clanricarde, in the name of the deputation, presented a memorial adopted at a meeting held lately at Athlone, from which it appears that, in pursuance of the Act of Parliament, the sum of £581,000 had been expended

on the Shannon works, of which certain baronies with which the memorialists were connected had paid £294,000. But they were prepared to prove that the said works were not duly executed, that the plans were not adhered to, and that in consequence the memorialists are prevented from converting in my thousands of acres of bogs and morasses into sound and valuable land. They, therefore, prayed for an immediate and impartial inquiry into the subject, confident that the Treasury and Parliament would not "condone a large portion of the centre of Ireland to remain in perpetuity a vast swamp, discreditable and injurious to the people and to the Government." Lord Carlisle, in his reply, said that great difficulty was found in reconciling the conflicting interests of navigation and drainage, but the Irish Government would put itself in communication with the Treasury with the view of seeing what could be done.

MURDER IN ENNISKILLEN.—A brutal murder was perpetrated in Enniskillen one night last week. The victim was a quiet inoffensive man, named William Carleton, who had recently opened a public-house in that town. He was found in the morning lying in the hall dying, near the door, with his face in a pool of blood. Blood was also found in the room upstairs, in the yard, and in other parts of the premises. Persons living next door heard a scuffle in the night, and faint cries of murder; but such cries are not unusual in that part of the town, and no notice was taken. The skull was fractured, and there was a cut six inches long on the neck, which had penetrated the jawbone. The wounds might have been inflicted by a short heavy sword. There was a man named Mihab and a woman named McCaffrey living in another part of the house, and they heard no unusual noise at all. Several persons had been drinking at Carleton's during the night, but there was no evidence to warrant the detention of any of them, though they could not all give a satisfactory account of themselves. The Coroner's jury found a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."

SCOTLAND.

THE USES OF A THANKSGIVING DAY.—A day was set apart in a parish in the West Highlands last month as a day of thanksgiving to God for the late abundant harvest. The Free Church minister took advantage of the occasion to point out the uses of a good harvest, and especially its connection with the Sustentation Fund (that is, the fund from which the stipends of the Free Church clergymen are paid). To the astonishment of the congregation, the rev. gentleman produced a list of attendants who were in arrear with their subscriptions. The names of the offenders were read aloud, with the amount of their paid-up and unpaid subscriptions, and denunciations of clerical wrath were uttered against all who continued to offend.

DEATH OF A CONTEMPORARY OF BURNS.—Walter Glover, known as the carrier between Dumfries and Edinburgh in the time of Burns, died on Sunday last at Fernieside, in the parish of Liberton, being in his 104th year. When Burns was exciseman at Dumfries rum was extensively imported there, and Glover was frequently employed to convey it to Edinburgh. The permits on these occasions required to be signed by the poet, and, contingent on the arrival of the vessels, these documents were often required at a very late or a very early hour. Glover was wont to state, as a proof of Burns's regularity and business habits, that sometimes, when he used to apologise for disturbing him at these untimely hours, the poet said, "Walter, it is but my duty, and never hesitate at any hour to call on me to do it." Till within the last twelvemonth this old man was in the habit of walking frequently to Edinburgh, a distance of between three and four miles, and his chief enjoyment was sitting by the fireside playing his fiddle. Within the last two years he wrote out the poem of "Tam O'Shanter" in a bold, steady, legible hand, amazingly like the poet's handwriting; and this was done without the aid of spectacles. For the last few months Time had been laying his inexorable hand upon him, but very gently, and he retained possession of his faculties, his memory especially, to the very last.

THE PROVINCES.

DOUBLE ELOPEMENT.—A quiet village, not 100 miles from Woodbridge, Suffolk, was aroused from its accustomed dullness last week by a report, which appears correct, that a gay young Lothario (who had for some months been residing with the Rector of the parish) had suddenly disappeared with one of the young ladies of the family. The lady's brother, not to be behind in gallantry, persuaded the governess to accompany him on Cupid's errand at the same time. The alarm and consternation of the parents may be easily imagined; and as soon as the real facts of the case were apparent a chase ensued, but with what result has not transpired. The fugitive couples were seen driving at a furious pace through the town on the day referred to at about three o'clock, hastening to catch the 3.55 train at Ipswich for the metropolis. We believe we are correct in stating that neither of the gentlemen has reached his twenty-first year, whilst one of the ladies is not yet "sweet seventeen."

CURIOS DISCOVERY AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL.—The workmen engaged in the process of restoration and repair now going on at Worcester Cathedral have just made an interesting discovery while taking up a portion of the flooring of the sanctuary at the foot of the altar stairs. The workmen had dug down a foot or two when they came upon a leaden coffin of very singular construction. The lead is thin, and appears to have been beaten on a mould until it assumed the shape of a human figure. The arms are crossed at the wrists, and the legs are extended to the full length. The figure lay with its face to the east. The part which covers the face looks like a leaden mask, the features—eyes, nose, and mouth—being shown. The lead over the chest has sunk down, as if the pressure from above had driven it in, but the shape of the body is still preserved. The fingers on the hand are also shown. Above the thighs the lead also has sunk in, apparently when the body within decayed; but the knees and the other bony portions of the body appear to have supported the lead over them in its original form. The figure is about six feet long, and the resemblance still borne by the leaden coffin to a human figure is rather startling. There are some small holes in the lead about the arms and shoulders, through which the workmen can feel the bones within.

THE DEFENCES OF LIVERPOOL.—The importance of placing Liverpool in a state of defence has been fully recognised by the Government. The only ships of war at present in the Mersey are the Majestic, 80, and her tender;

but it is announced that these vessels will be at once joined by the Emerald, a 51-gun frigate, originally destined for the North American station; by the Pandora and Lee, each of which carries five guns; and by two of the smaller gun-vessels.

THE TRADES OUTRAGES NEAR SHEFFIELD.—At the Rotherham Court three men, named respectively James Watson and Isaac E. Watson, brothers, and Joseph Tomlinson, nailmakers, were charged with destroying buildings at the village of Thorpe Hesley, near Sheffield, by gunpowder, as noticed in our last Number. Mr. Walker, who appeared for the prisoners, called several witnesses to prove an alibi in the case of James Watson; but the Bench decided to remand the prisoners for a week, and refused to accept bail. The success of the police in this case, following so closely upon the committal of Thomson for the Sheffield trade murder, has excited a strong hope that these murderous outrages will shortly be put to an end in the neighbourhood, which has disgraced so often by them.

DOUBLE EXECUTION AT WARWICK.—Two convicted murderers were hanged at Warwick on Monday. One of them, named Thompson, murdered a woman with whom he lived in a fit of drunken jealousy in a disreputable house in Birmingham; and the other, Beamish, poisoned his wife, a respectable person, from an illicit attachment to another woman.

Both prisoners confessed their crime. The double execution caused a good deal of excitement in the neighbourhood of Warwick, and a great many persons came both from Birmingham and Coventry to witness the disgraceful end of their townsmen. Notwithstanding the crowd assembled, their behaviour at the foot of the scaffold was, upon the whole, decent and orderly.

MURDER IN LIVERPOOL.—Late on Friday evening week seaman named Antonio Lopez was murdered in Liverpool by another seaman (a Spaniard) named Louis Edmond, one of the crew of the barque Victoria, lying in King's Dock. It appears that about eleven o'clock on Friday evening week, the deceased, in company with a girl named Mary Jones, went to France's dancing-saloon in Hope-street. Here they were taking some drink together when the prisoner came in and commenced quarrelling with the woman, and at last struck her with a cane. Lopez then interfered, and the men adjourned to the street for the purpose of fighting. After several blows had been struck Edmond drew his sheath-knife and stabbed the deceased in the lower part of the abdomen, inflicting a frightful wound, from which the poor fellow's entrails protruded. The wounded man was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary, where he died about half past two in the morning. The prisoner was soon after apprehended by Inspector Rigby, and his knife was found on the ground. The prisoner was taken to the infirmary and placed amongst six other men, and the deceased at once selected him as the person who stabbed him. The prisoner was afterwards taken to the Central Police Station, and here again he was picked out from a number of men by the woman Jones. The prisoner has been committed for trial.

THE MASONS' STRIKE.—The various lodges composing the London hands of the Operative Masons' Society have this week, under the sanction of their executive council, decided upon continuing their strike against the hour system (which has lasted now for eight months) during the remaining winter months, and until the commencement of the building season in the spring. The number of masons now on the strike books is about three hundred.

THE NEWS-BOYS OF NEW YORK.
We have given many institutions and customs to the Americans, and are even charged with having been the authors of some things of which, as they are little creditable, we are not unwilling to deny the parentage. But it would seem that we have begun to copy from the Yankees in our turn, and that the sons are now in some respects assuming the position of teachers of their sires. Where, else, did we get those noisy, pertinacious, and yet withal acute and knowing, knaves who beset us at every omnibus and cab stand, who rush wildly on board of every steam-boat on the river, who pop their heads into every railway-carriage, and, despite the police, waylay us at every street corner and importune us? Where, but in New York and other Transatlantic cities? Look at the accompanying Engraving, the New York news-boys, and say if they are not palpably the originals of the quaint tribe we have spoken of above; as, indeed, in point of historical fact, they are, for it appears that from the Americans we have copied the now great institution of news-boys. This class of lads, in New York and other American cities, though somewhat "rude of speech and manner," yet display great intelligence and aptitude in bringing before the notice of the public the most exciting points in the news of the day. As existing circumstances—the actual war with the adherents of "Secesh," and the possible one with the Britishers—keep the Yankees in a constant state of excitement and craving after news, the subjects of our sketch have not failed to take advantage of the times, and are, we are told, at present doing a "roaring" trade.

OBSEQUIES OF THE LATE KING OF PORTUGAL.

The grief into which the nation has fallen by the death of our Prince Consort has for a time obscured from view the calamities of our neighbours; and in the general mourning for him whom Englishmen had learned to regard as the Prince who achieved the difficult task of uniting the highest rank in the State with the domestic virtues, thorough practical, unpretentious benevolence, and an arduous career of national usefulness, has caused us for a time to forget the death of his relative Don Pedro V., by which he was himself but recently so much affected.

Portugal, however, like our own country, is still mourning the loss—first, of its young Prince Don Fernando, and but a few days later the heavier one of his Royal brother, and now of Prince John. Until lately the house of Braganza was represented by seven members: it is now reduced

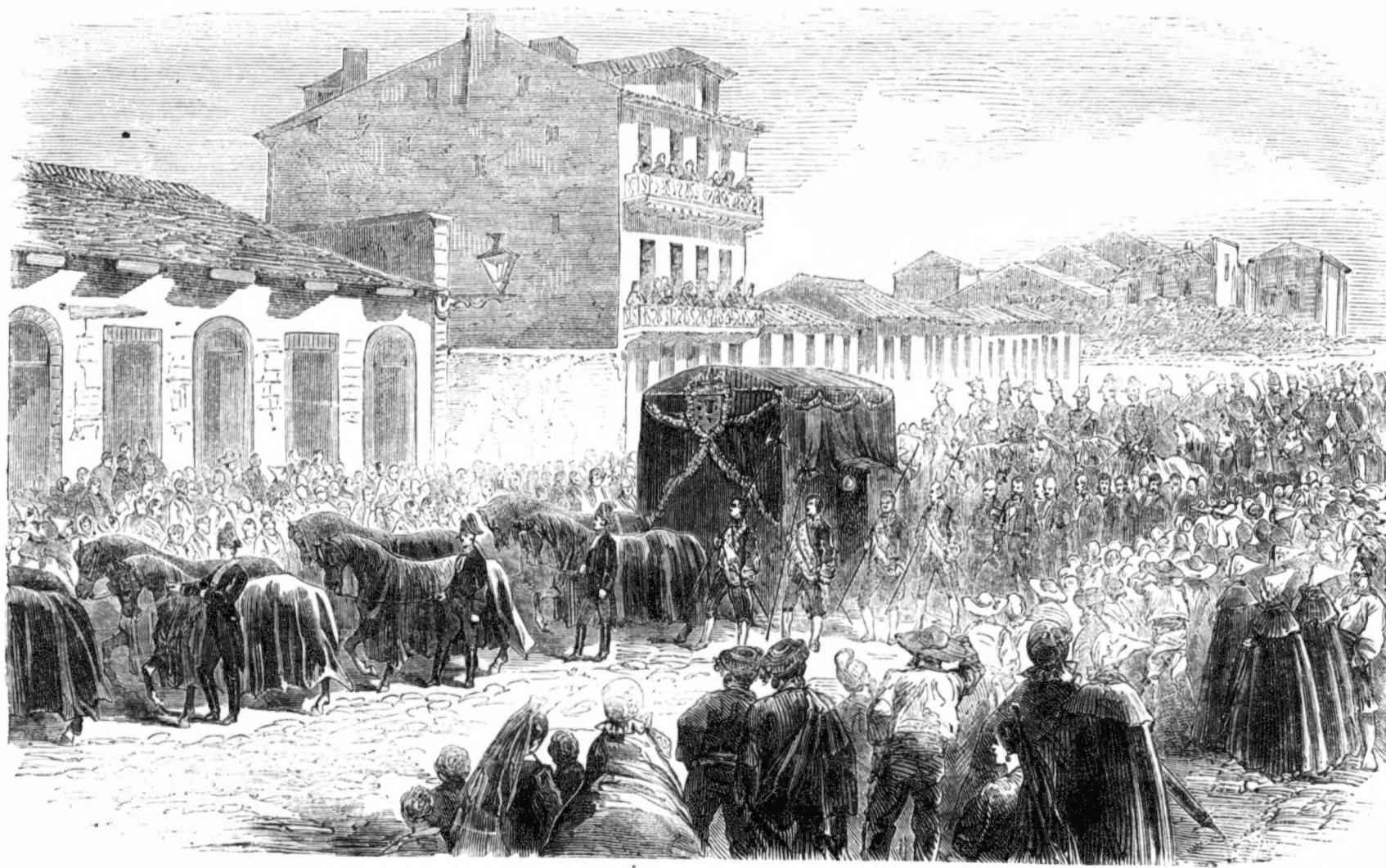


NEWS-BOYS, NEW YORK.

to four, of whom the youngest is in a precarious state of health. The people who on the accession of Pedro V. had surnamed their favourite Esperancoso, have been almost prostrated by his sudden and untimely death, and in their picturesque language they have changed the name so full of joy and promise into Desgraçado, or the Unfortunate.

The inhabitants of Lisbon were unanimous in the tokens of deep regret which were exhibited on the occasion of the Royal funeral; and more than 100,000 persons were present at the ceremony, many of them in the deepest mourning, numbers of women wearing the black funeral mantle with a collar of velvet, and the white conical lenço or linen headdress. The guild of water carriers, which in Lisbon numbers some 30,000 members, was largely represented amongst the public who joined in the procession. Our Engraving is from a sketch taken from the Calyada do Marquez d'Albrantes. The procession was headed by a squadron of Lancers, and nearly two hundred private and State carriages preceded deputations from a hundred and twenty different associations of the capital, amongst which were those of the French, English, German, and Jewish residents; the artists of the Theatre of San Carlos, authors, and seamen. After these came the members of the Municipal Council in full official costume, followed by seven Royal carriages, each drawn by six horses and conveying the principal functionaries of the Court. The coffin of Pedro V. was placed across a bier drawn by eight horses, and entirely covered with a black pall. On each side of the funeral-car marched archers carrying long pikes, while it was followed by the Staff of the late King's regiment, headed by their band. Two squadrons of Lancers, a squadron of the Municipal Guard, and three brigades of infantry, closed the cortège.

Our second Engraving represents a ceremony not less interesting and more curious than that of the Royal obsequies. It took place on the Terreiro de Rayo, and is called "Quebra escudos," or breaking the escutcheon. Behind the base of the equestrian statue which ornaments this square there has been erected for the occasion a square platform approached by three steps. In the middle of this platform stands a block draped with black cloth. Towards this spot there approaches a procession composed of a picket of cavalry, two bands of music, and a large body of chasseurs, who are followed by a municipal magistrate on horseback and in deep mourning, holding in his hand a black flag, the end of his staff resting on his stirrup. At his side march two *Regidores*; and these three magistrates are attended by the administrators of



FUNERAL OF THE LATE KING OF PORTUGAL, AT LISBON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY P. ANSTELL.)



THE CEREMONY OF BREAKING THE ROYAL SHIELD IN THE PLACE OF PEACE, LISBON.—(FROM A SKETCH BY P. ANSTELL.)

the *bairros* carrying the late King's escutcheons, followed by three of the Judges, the members of the Municipal Chamber bearing unlighted wax tapers, and a squadron of cavalry.

The cortége is arranged around the funeral platform, one of the Judges, dressed in a Court suit of mourning, mounts the third step, and, holding the escutcheon in both hands, breaks it by dashing it against the block, while his two associates, standing on the lower step, hold to their breasts the shields which they carry. At the moment of breaking the escutcheon the Judge pronounces the solemn adjuration, "Weep, Portuguese, for your King, Don Pedro, is dead!" This ceremony terminates the Royal obsequies.

THE ROYAL FAMILY OF PORTUGAL.

Quick upon the untimely decease of the young King of Portugal follows the death of another Royal victim of the same house, dying in the same palace and of the same malady. A telegram informs us that Prince João, who was the third son of Dona Maria II. da Glória, a d whose death had been expected, has expired. The cause of death, like that of his eldest brother, is officially ascertained to have been typhoid fever.

There is something especially striking in these strange coincidences. Kings and Princes in rapid succession are swept away by the pestilence which is usually the bane of the over-worked or the ill-fed, or of the closely-immured denizen of some dense city. The death is not to the old, the luxurious, the riotous, or to the reveller; but it falls upon the young, the temperate, and the thoughtful student conscientiously working out high duties. Dona Maria had seven children, and of these three are suddenly and rapidly swept away by this dire visitation. Ferdinand, the fourth son, accompanied the King, his brother, in the expedition in which they both contracted their fatal illness, and died a few days before the King. The King's fate we have already recorded. Now occurs that of Prince João. Prince Augusto, the fifth son, has been stricken down by the same malady, and is the only one of the brothers who has recovered. The reigning King, Prince Augusto, and two sisters are the survivors who yet stand between the throne and the male branch of the Royal house as represented by Dom Miguel. So great a fatality is unexampled in modern and peaceful times. This family seems to have been united in its affections, and to have eschewed none of those spectacles of intrigue and contention which are so habitually looked for in the history of the rulers of the earth. Under the government of the mother and of her son the Portuguese had enjoyed a prosperity and tranquillity which were the better appreciated by them as they came as a relief from the vicissitudes of a sanguinary civil war.

These facts will explain what have to many appeared the inexplicable tumults which followed these successive deaths. The population of Lisbon are still a medieval population. They are to the present citizens of London or Paris what the citizens of London or Paris were five centuries ago. We can look across the sea to Lisbon as we can look across the lapse of five hundred years to our predecessors in this great city. In those days ignorance magnified and distorted every public event, and violence was the only known remedy for real or faceted evils. The people of Lisbon have been alarmed by three successive blows falling upon a Royal family which had become dear to them by reason of the blessings they have enjoyed under it. Living themselves in a capital where all sanitary precautions are unknown, and which seems to a stranger to have been specially designed as an asylum for fever and pestilence, it never could strike that ignorant populace that a little more miseria in a neighbouring hunting-ground, or an extra shade of offensiveness in the Palace of the Necessidades, could have produced the fatal diseases which have recurred in such rapid succession. The multitude has run to the conclusion that these deaths are the result of poison. Hence the riots, the demands for the exhumation of the body of the King, the attacks upon the druggists' shops, and the contradictory addresses, first that the new King shall, and then that he shall not, quit Lisbon. The people of Lisbon have been impressed by the idea that the family of Dona Maria are all dying away under the influence of some fell conspiracy, and that the country will again fall under the power of Dom Miguel and his offspring. Just as the mob of the middle ages rose sometimes against the Jews and sometimes against the bakers, animated by some wild and erroneous impulse, so the mob of Lisbon has conceived a suspicion and blindly asks a victim. There is no reason to believe that these popular notions have the slightest foundation, or that this Royal family has been scourged by any other visitation than that which punishes the infraction of the natural laws which enjoin cleanliness and pure air as the conditions of a healthy human existence. That the people are so excited by these calamities is proof how popular the ruling family in Portugal has become, and it bodes well for the security of the Throne of the new Monarch. To him, with that squallid capital around him, there is a moral in these pestilences brooding over palaces, and claiming victims from their throne-rooms. It is not enough to mourn over what has happened—wise men will also work against that which may recur.—*Times*.

EDMOND ABOUT ON PRINCE ALBERT'S DEATH AND ENGLAND'S MOURNING.

M. EDMOND ABOUT, the well-known French writer, in an article in a Paris contemporary on the death of the late Prince Consort, makes the following remarks on the simple announcement, so almost universally complied with, that the British public were expected to assume a decent mourning for his Royal Highness:—

Have you remarked that phrase in the official publication of the English Government after the death of Prince Albert—"It is expected that all persons will assume a decent mourning?"

How much is said in a few words! A whole treatise might be written on them. The Queen of a great nation has just lost her husband, and she hopes that in her three kingdoms every person will assume a decent mourning. This is neither a decree, nor a ordinance, nor a command sent down from on high; it is a simple appeal to public sympathy, and at the same time a reminder of a social obligation. There is in the formula a mingling of dignity, confidence, and familiarity. You feel, from the very first word, that the dynasty which speaks is in the most courteous, if not the most intimate, relations with its subjects; that no one disputes its rights; that it has no declared enemies in the nation; that it may rely, on all occasions, upon that loyalty without meanness which the English display with a sort of coquetry. You perceive a Queen who reigns and who does not govern; a people which manages its own affairs, and fears all the less a country of tradition, of decency, and of decorum, governed by manners even more than by laws.

We, of course, are proud of being French; that is all settled. But there must pass away many years before our political manners are elevated to the high tone of those of England. Nothing is more unequal, more capricious, less logical, than our relations with the men who govern us. The French people conduct themselves towards Monarchy as towards a mistress. We embrace it, we beat it, we put it out of doors—we seek it out next day and cling around its knees. Yesterday we could find no name foul enough for it; to-day we flatter it, not without blushing at our present baseness and our past violence. It is a question of passion and temperament. We adore Louis XIV. as a god, yet we flung mud upon his funeral cortége. There was, too, that *bon homme* of a King whose hand we clasped between both our own, full of respect for his coiffure and admiration for his umbrella, yet he had to fly in the midst of hootings, honest man though he was in his own person. With what acclamations did we not deafen Lamartine upon the Place de l'Hôtel de Ville! Apollo himself descending upon earth to bring us harmony could not have been more welcome. Fourteen years after this splendid triumph Apollo pines in hunger, and the generous little journals follow him with the bitterest cries.

I have already assisted at some evasions, political and otherwise. These blustering scenes fill me with a profound sadness. It is not jealousy—or that you may be certain. No! I pity the recipient. I should rather see for him the tokens of a "decent" approbation, as they phrase it in London. He would then be exposed to less terrible reactions.

Suppose that our old ancestors had not left to us the Salic law, and picture to yourselves a Queen of France, young and fair, choosing for her husband a foreigner, who would not be King. What a delicious dream for this young Prince! But also what an awakening after the honeymoon of his popularity! What pamphlets, what couplets, and what caricatures! One of two things must happen—either this unfortunate man must shamefully fly, to escape from our popular injustice, or he must try to crush our will and to overthrow our laws. Prince Albert, for whom a decent mourning has just been asked and obtained, yonder, has never been placed in this dangerous alternative. The nation received him politely—not as a stranger, but as a guest. He rendered to England courtesy for courtesy. He gave to the Crown numerous heirs, and created a family truly Royal. Modest and delicate, he kept discreetly within the pale of politics. His dearest study was the education of his children. In his hours of leisure he encouraged art and industry so well that, after having lived more than twenty years near the throne, without ever having been popular, in the French sense of this terrible word, he died regretted and esteemed by a great people, and his funeral is honoured by a "decent mourning."

It is stated that the instructions forwarded by M. Thouvenel to M. Mercier, the French Minister at Washington, impress on him the necessity of strictly following the text of the despatches previously addressed to him, in which the expression "belligerent," applied to the Southern States, is designately repeated.

CANADIAN FEELING ON THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

The following extracts from a letter from Canada embody some of the latest views current in that country regarding the prospects of war:—

"Depend upon it that a war with England and an invasion of Canada would be the most popular cry that could be raised in the States. But you will say, 'How can the North attempt a war with England with the Southern rebellion on hand?' She would be between two fires—the South on the one hand and Canada on the other." That is very true; and, in the event of a war, the South would have the game in her own hands. If war were declared, the policy of the North would be to recognise at once the Southern Confederacy, make peace with the 'rebels,' and, thus being relieved of the incubus, turn all her troops into the British possessions in North America and in the West Indies. We are, therefore, of course, in intense anxiety, and are unable to see what is before us. We know full well, however, that, should war come, this will be the battle ground. We have a militia here, but little has as yet been done in the way of drilling or equipping it. Of course, if war is seriously apprehended, active drill will commence; but it will take some time to bring the raw recruits into discipline. Fortunately, Canada is well provided with half-pay officers who have seen service in the Peninsula, India, the Crimea, &c. There are numbers of discharged non-commissioned officers and old pensioners, who are likewise available as drill-servants and the nucleus for the militia. As to able-bodied men, we have 10,000 able and ready—perhaps 20,000 could be enrolled for service, if the necessary arms, clothing, and munitions of war were provided. Don't believe any reports as to 'sympathy with the Yankees.' They are all false. Not one man in fifty, or I might say in a hundred, would be willing to see British rule supplanted by American Republicanism. I believe Canada is sound and loyal; we are well off, contented, and happy under British rule, and, with the evils of Republicanism before us, we know when we are thriving, and prefer the mild and genial sway of Victoria to the rampant democracy of mob law. It is a curious fact, but one which will be admitted by all settlers, that the man who is a Radical or Chartist at home is a good Conservative here! I know in this town two or three men who took a prominent part in the Chartist troubles of 1847-8, who now utterly repudiate all Chartist doctrines and stand firm to constitutional Government. The reason is, we are alongside the great model Republic, and we watch and observe its weaknesses and defects. We see that mob law, that ultra-Democratic institutions, that elective Presidents, elective Judges, sheriffs, and all the other offices which are in the gift of the Crown at home, but in the hands of the people in America, bring in their train corruption, fraud, violence, and the repression of freedom of opinion and liberty. We see the necessity of a Monarch and a strong Conservative party to stand between liberty and democracy, to shelter the constitution from the storms of popular violence and ignorance, which will sweep every country if not withheld. These are some of the reasons why Canada is loyal, not only to the Queen and the Home Government, but to constitutional rule and usage. If England goes to war she must send large bodies of troops here simultaneously with the declaration. Much would depend upon the season of the year. To the end of February or middle of March no troops could lie out under canvas for the cold. When winter breaks up the thaws swamp the roads, and render them almost impassable. The creeks and rivers are unfordable, and oftentimes the bridges are carried away by the floods. It will be quite the end of April before the roads get into a state to admit of military operations, and by that date the St. Lawrence navigation will be opened, and vessels with troops could push up to Quebec. By the time you get this, Canada will be sealed up with ice. Canada is just now well prepared to sustain a large army in food. Beef, pork, and mutton are mere drugs here; the meat is now selling all over the upper part of the province at 2d. sterling (twopence) per pound; wheat, oats, hay, &c., are in equal abundance. The 4d. loaf is but 4d. sterling. Every farm is stored with grain and produce of all descriptions. Of horses there is a great abundance—hardy Canadian horses, just fit for cavalry or artillery service; 200,000 horses can be had if wanted. At no period would Canada be better prepared to endure a war than at the present. Railways intersect the country east and west, north and south, and troops can be moved from one extremity of the province to the other in forty-eight hours.

TROOPS FOR CANADA.

The arrangements for dispatching the troops selected for service in Canada have now been entirely completed. The mail-packet which is to leave Liverpool this day will take the 2nd and 3rd batteries of the fifteenth brigade of Garrison Artillery, consisting of 12 officers and 234 men, and this completes the list of troops forming the reinforcements. More than 10,000 men have been dispatched with extraordinary celerity, and it is gratifying to know that they have left our shores under circumstances which leave no room for doubt as regards their comfort and efficiency. The extra warm clothing, which has not been procured without difficulty, is of the best quality, and perfectly suited to the sharp winter the men will have to encounter. This extra clothing has been in every case so placed in the ships as to be accessible at any moment, and will be distributed to the men on the voyage should the weather be such as to require the use of sealskin caps and similar articles. The number of transports wholly chartered by the Government is thirteen, all powerful screw steamers; and, in several cases, troops have been sent by the Cunard mail steamers to Halifax. Englishmen are not much in the habit of looking at expense when the honour of their country is concerned, and we state that the cost of hiring the Melbourne alone will be some £3000 merely for the purpose of showing that the Americans will have a task before them should they endeavour to fight us while their financial affairs are in so desperate a condition. The expenses attending the transport and clothing of the Canadian reinforcements have, of course, been very great; but the country cares nothing, in these days, about such matters, after the experience of the Crimean War. The men have been thoroughly well provided for, and that is sufficient. We stated last week that a supply of Canadian boots had been obtained from "an exceptional source." Every source of supply at home having been ransacked in vain, it was resolved to apply to the Emperor of the French, and a message was telegraphed from the Foreign Office to Captain Claremont, our Military Commissioner in Paris, instructing him to make the request at head-quarters. Captain Claremont was immediately referred to Marshal Randon, the Minister of War, who at once sent for the officials in charge of the stores for information. The result was that the number of pairs required (2000) was packed and sent off within a few hours, and we can also state that this act was accompanied with the assurance that the French Government regarded with the most friendly feelings our proceedings in the affair of the Trent, and wished to render us every possible assistance in the way of providing any amount of clothing or stores required. We further learn that his Imperial Majesty subsequently ordered an additional supply of 10,000 pairs to be forwarded without any solicitation. The whole 12,000 pairs have arrived, and are now in the military store, London, ready for shipment. It may be added that the French Government has long adopted the wise course of keeping a large store of every article that might be required for service in any part of the world. The foresight which led to providing a store of articles not usually, nor indeed very likely to be, required by the French army might be advantageously copied here; and it is to be hoped that the fact of our having been obliged to look about for Canadian boots will have its effect upon those who have so persistently opposed the keeping up a store of such requisites at Plymouth. The reinforcements that have been dispatched to Canada may be estimated at 10,000 men of all ranks; and, should it be found necessary to increase the force, a second 10,000 have been selected, and are ready to embark at a few hours' notice.

MR. SEWARD ON THE TRENT AFFAIR.—An Edinburgh contemporary says that a letter has been received by a gentleman in that city from Secretary Seward, the views expressed in which are of a highly pacific tendency. The letter, of course, was written before the demands of the British Government were received at Washington. After discussing the aspects of the civil war, Mr. Seward comments upon the conduct of England in recognising the Seceding States as a belligerent Power in a very candid, friendly spirit. He then alludes at some length to the Trent affair, and expresses a firm belief that the good sense and moderation of both Governments will prevent any rupture of those friendly relations which Mr. Seward regards as of vital importance "to the political and commercial well-being of the United States." He deprecates the "undue importance" attached in this country to the hasty expression of opinion at mass meetings, and to the ravings of the New York press, and demands that the sentiments of the Government towards England shall be judged of only by its formal communications, which he declares will be perfectly satisfactory to this country. It must be borne in mind, however, that this letter is only a non-official expression of Mr. Seward's private opinion.

RUSSIA AND AUSTRIA.—The official journal of St. Petersburg publishes a note by Prince Gortchakoff, addressed to the Austrian representative, complaining of the recent intervention of Austrian troops in the Sutorina, and declaring that Austria has created a precedent which is likely to weaken the principles necessary not merely to the security of Turkey but to the peace of Europe. Prince Gortchakoff maintains that Austria has violated the principles agreed on between the great Powers by her isolated interference in Turkey. Meanwhile, it is stated that the insurgents, who appear to be once more springing into vigour, have again raised the batteries on the military road which Austria claimed the right to destroy; and the latter Power will therefore have the dilemma presented to her either to abandon the right she has just claimed and enforced or to enforce it once again and in face of the protest made by Russia. It is to be hoped that this matter will not lead to complications likely to disturb the peace of Europe.

ALLEGED OUTRAGE ON A BRITISH GUN-BOAT.

A PRIVATE despatch received in Halifax from Bermuda contains the startling announcement that the British gun-boat Landrail, while carrying despatches to the English admiral of the West India station, was fired into by an American ship-of-war (the notorious San Jacinto). This intelligence caused a strong feeling in Bermuda. The *Halifax Reporter* says:—

Whatever differences of opinion may exist as to the arrest of Slidell and Mason, there can be no doubt as to the light in which the outrage offered to the British flag in the case of the Landrail should and will be regarded. It is evident that the American Government wish to provoke a quarrel with England. The tone of their press—the insolent conduct of the officers of their fleet, with which the Atlantic coast is now covered—and the hardly concealed wish of her public men to insult and bully the representatives of the British nation on every occasion, leave no doubt as to the recent outrages being the result of a settled plan.

The Landrail was lying in the harbour of New York on the 11th of December. The *Herald* of that date says:—

The report that the Landrail, Commander J. H. Martin, was fired at by the San Jacinto is altogether without foundation. The Landrail is a screw-propeller English gun-boat, and, when leaving the Gulf of Florida, fell in company, on her passage, with the San Jacinto. She arrived at this port yesterday, at twelve o'clock; and, on making inquiry as regards the alleged insult to the British flag, it has been ascertained from her own officers that no such insult was intended. The Landrail was bound for New York, and, in coming alongside with the San Jacinto, and being in full sail at the time, recognised the shot from the latter. It has been discovered that the United States' war-vessel only fired a blank shot. It was amicably agreed upon that it was nothing beyond that, and both parties seem satisfied that it was no "insult," as it was called, to the British flag. The Landrail not having her pennant flags flying at the time, the officers themselves confess that it was the right of the San Jacinto to do what she did, more especially in the present exciting times in which we live, and in consideration of the war in which the States are engaged. Previous to the English gun-boat Landrail arriving at this port she smashed her jibboom, owing to the heavy weather she had to encounter. She carries five guns, one a 68-pounder, and the others 40-pounders each. Her jibboom was being rapidly put in order, and she will be ready to take orders from New York in a few days to where she is destined to carry them.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SPEECHES.

THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.

A MEETING of persons desirous of referring the dispute between England and America to "the arbitration of a neutral Power" was held at Brighton on Monday night. Mr. Coningham and Mr. White made speeches. The meeting purports to have been one of "working men," in whose name a memorial is to be presented to Lord Palmerston based on this resolution:—"That the dispute between England and America having originated in the misinterpretation of international law, rather than from any intended insult to the British flag, this meeting is of opinion that the whole matter in dispute should be referred for arbitration to a neutral Power, and that a war with America under existing circumstances would be unjustifiable and deserving the condemnation of the English people."

A meeting to protest against war with America was held at Halifax on Friday week. A memorial to Lord Palmerston praying for arbitration was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Mure, M.P. for Bute, who was Lord Advocate under the last Administration of the Earl of Derby, addressed his constituents in the island on Friday week. Mr. Mure was very explicit on the legal bearings of the Trent affair; and, while he gave many and weighty reasons why the Americans should concede our demands and keep the peace, he maintained that if they did not Great Britain would have no alternative but to assert her rights.

On Tuesday night Mr. W. E. Forster addressed his constituents at Bradford on the American difficulty. The hon. gentleman advocated a settlement of the dispute by arbitration. A resolution in favour of this course was adopted.

The Right Hon. E. W. Cardwell, M.P., attended the annual dinner of the Druids' Society, at Oxford, on Wednesday evening. In replying to the toast of his health, Mr. Cardwell said, in reference to the dispute with America:—"I trust in due time, when all the correspondence shall be laid before the public, that they will be of opinion that those who are intrusted with the powers of State have acted in a manner worthy of them, and consonant with their own principles and feelings. I believe there never was a spectacle of which Englishmen might be less ashamed in the face of Europe and of the world than the demeanour which England has shown in this great trial of her fortunes. We have sustained an injury such as could not possibly pass by if we meant to retain the name and the position which England has heretofore enjoyed among the nations of the world. The law, and, as we see, the opinion of civilised Europe have been declared upon our side. Our contest is for freedom and for the peaceful rights of commerce. The issue, then, gentlemen, does not rest with us, but upon the answer we may receive. How have the English people comport themselves under these circumstances? Has England shown that irritation and excitement which usually accompanies weakness, or that quietness and confidence which can spring alone from a consciousness of right and a consciousness of power. We have been determined to do right, but we have been equally determined not to suffer wrong."

ELECTION IN NELLIGGENCE.

NOTTINGHAM.—The contest in this borough has terminated in the return of Sir Robert Clifton by a large majority. The official declaration of the state of the poll was made on Saturday, when the numbers were declared to be:—For Sir Robert Clifton, 2313; for the Earl of Lincoln, 1122—majority for Sir R. Clifton, 1191. Sir R. Clifton was not present, but has published an address thanking the electors.

OXFORDSHIRE.—There is as yet no candidate in the field in opposition to Sir Henry Dashwood, but a vigorous effort is being made by the Conservatives to get a more decided partisan to come forward, and, as they are believed to be very strong in the county, it is probable that another candidate will be started.

EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES.—The bill for the embankment of the northern side of the Thames has been printed and pretty generally circulated. It provides, as was understood before, for the embankment of the river from Westminster-bridge to Blackfriars-bridge, occupying the bed of the river to the extent of about 100ft., and forming a roadway from Westminster to the Temple of 190ft. in breadth, from the Temple eastward a breadth of 70ft. only. The bridges on the river are not to be interfered with, but the formation of the embankment will not only be a new street in itself, but will afford opportunities for opening and extending other lines of communication in the busier parts of the town. The board to carry these works into effect is proposed to be the chairman and four members of the Metropolitan Board of Works and two members to be chosen by the Corporation of the city of London—seven in all. They are to have borrowing powers, powers for compulsory purchase of property, &c. They are also to be authorised to build on the embankment subject to the approbation of the Board of Works, but no buildings are to be allowed in front of the Temple. The plan for the embankment of the southern side of the river has also been issued. It places the execution of the work in the hands of the same parties as are intrusted with the embankment of the northern side; and it is intended that the works on both sides shall be proceeded with as soon as possible.

RAILWAY ENGINEERS' SHORT-TIME MOVEMENT.—A meeting of railway engineers and railway engine-drivers took place in the neighbourhood of Manchester on Christmas Day, to consider the propriety of forming an association for the purpose of shortening the hours of railway engine-drivers. It was stated at the meeting that the country had derived the greatest benefit from the operation of the Ten Hours Bill in factories, and was grateful to the men who promoted it. Such a movement was wanted for the engine-drivers on railways, and it was hoped that when the public saw the engine-drivers were in earnest themselves upon the subject they would willingly come forward to assist in the cause. An association was formed.

AN ENGINE-DRIVER NAMED CHARLTON has been apprehended and examined before the magistrates on suspicion of being the person who murdered and robbed the old woman Emmerson at the Durran-hill level crossing on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway on the night of Nov. 21.

SUSPECTED INFANTCIDE.—An extraordinary charge has been brought against a young woman at the Westminster Police Court of having the bodies of two children concealed in her box, with a piece of string tied round the neck of each, as if they had been strangled. The bodies appeared to have been there for at least twelve months, but they were not in a state of putrefaction, but appeared as if dried into mummies. The prisoner denied all knowledge of them, though her mode of accounting for their presence in her box is a very lame one. The case has been remanded for further investigation.

A MOST EXTRAORDINARY "RUN" with Lord Middleton's hounds, in the East Riding of Yorkshire, is chronicled. The hounds ran after the fox a distance of forty miles, crossing, in their progress, three railways and three rivers. All the horsemen were beaten off, but the hounds carried on their game into the night, and were only picked up by the huntmen the morning after the hunt.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

Literature.

The Young Stepmother: a Chronicle of Mistakes. By the Author of "The Heir of Redclyffe," &c. Parker.

An enormous public knows very well what are the general characteristics of the writings of Miss Yonge. A highly cultivated lady, with a fine conscience, High Church leanings, and great power of effective "stippling," takes up characters and incidents essentially modern, and works them into stories of great interest and uninterrupted sweetness, purity, and loftiness of tone. "Strong meat" she has none to give, and, as she works her own speciality so honourably and moderately, we have no right to complain of that. Quite otherwise, indeed; and it is probable that few novelists of our day have employed their powers with such innocent energy as Miss Yonge.

The present work is truly a "chronicle"—not a "novel," hardly a "tale." Scarcely a family in the country a few years of whose history would not afford as much "plot" as we have here, and be capable of just as instructive treatment by Miss Yonge, who, for all her own strongly-marked beliefs, has, to an attentive eye, as much catholicity as Thackeray or George Eliot. The lesson intended to be worked out in this "Chronicle of Mistakes" is not a new one, but it is not one to be illustrated by a clumsy pencil. It is given on the titlepage in a motto from Miss Proctor:

Fail—yet rejoice, because no less
The failure that makes thy distress
May teach another full success.

Nor with thy share of work be vexed;
Though incom'plete and even perplexed,
It fits exactly to the next.

This lesson, a very beautiful one—sorely needed to be taken to our bosoms in some of the crises of life—is also stated on the last page in the tenderly-transparent prose of the authoress herself. Albinia Kendal, the "stepmother," is talking over with her brother some of the errors she had in that capacity fallen into, and wondering that in one particular case (that of Sophy) the result has been so happy:

It is very strange . . . but really her spirits have been more equal, her temper more even than ever it had been, and that just when I thought my folly had been most ruinous.

To which replies the brother:

Yes, Albinia. After all, it is more than man can hope or expect to make no blunders; but I do verily believe that while an earnest will saves us, by God's grace, from wilful sins, the effects of the inadvertencies that teach us our secret faults will not be fatal; and while we are, indeed, honestly and faithfully doing our best . . . that our lapses through infirmity will be compensated, both in the training of our own characters and the results upon others.

The first "mistake" in this "chronicle" is that committed by Albinia in marrying Mr. Kendal, a widower of thirty-eight, whose cheerfulness and taste for active life are buried in the grave of his first partner with two or three of her children. This step is condemned by her friends; but the result is better than could have been expected. Then came errors in dealing with the children of Mr. Kendal. Sophy is at first treated by Albinia as merely sulky and idle, when she had really a spinal complaint and a courageous heart. Lucy is soon found out for the gossip she is, and she is so transparent as to afford little scope for blundering. Gilbert, however, is a much harder nut to crack; and, as he has a kind heart and means well, Albinia is always relying upon his promises in critical matters, till at last he breaks down so signally in his intercourse with her own boy Maurice that she feels she can trust him no more. He gets "rusticated" at college, and, going out to the Crimea, is wounded in the Balaclava charge. The wound, and his exertions in tending sick comrade, bring to a fatal crisis a natural tendency to lumbago disorder, and Gilbert dies, beloved and more than pardoned. Sophy's is a harder lot. Her stepmother makes the deadly "mistake" of fostering in her heart a passion for Ulric O'More, a noble young Irishman who proves never to have thought of her except as a friend. Sophy is too willingly deceived; but, when the truth comes out, behaves most nobly, and does, we think, certain little "works of supererogation," such as dressing the bride's hair and looking after her trousseau. As for the husband, his wife's kindly active nature comes, in time, to leave his own, and he develops into a useful country gentleman.

The practical value of the direct teaching of this book will be differently estimated by different people, according as they think character or circumstance predominates in working up the raw material of thought and feeling into "life." We are of opinion that Miss Yonge holds the scales very fairly; and, as a work of educational suggestion, to be usefully read in connection with such a book, for instance, as Harriet Martineau's "Household Education," we can warmly recommend "The Young Stepmother."

A History of Infantry; from the Earliest Times to the Present. By H. B. STUART, Lieutenant Bengal Army. (Quaritch's Military Library.) Barnard Quaritch.

Under a title which immediately seems to land on the shores of our learning a whole army of big books comes a little volume, remarkable at once for its information and its modesty—articles not always to be found beneath scarlet coats. For a small volume (150 pages) the ground travelled is immense; and it may readily be conceived that facts are given in all the purity of perspicuity, and do not depend for their value on the meretricious allurements of fine writing. The writer storms an anecdote, and he can receive a quotation without flinching; but, as a rule, he cultivates the soldier's greatest military art—duty. He is ever at his subject. The earliest infantry ("without going back to the earlier episode of Cain and Abel") is attributable to the Egyptians, the Jews, and the Persians; but Lieutenant Stuart disbands them in two or three pages. We know their squares and lines; and, for the rest, we have only to see the Egyptian troops depicted on ancient earthenware, to imagine the Jewish foot to be capital hands at stowing and carrying the haversack, and to feel that the Persians must have had the most gentlemanlike genius for the art of war, because at first they were armed only with offensive weapons. The "Greek Phalanx" and the "Roman Legions" are chapters full of minute and interesting information; but, of course, the more modern European history will have a greater charm for most readers. It will serve the important purpose of reminding the world of its curious vicissitudes; the English Army, of what it was not, so very long since, and of what it is now; the Spanish, of its rise, its glorious zenith, and its recent ignoble difficulties; the Swiss, of their boasted freedom, and their shameless mercenary legions; the Portuguese, of how they conspicuously figure not at all; the Prussians, of their wonderful military system, which has been the example of all Europe, and a useless dead letter to Prussia; the French, of their marvellous pre-eminence, but who, nevertheless, in the long run, are unable to beat every nation; and the Russians, of how they are totally passed over in Lieutenant Stuart's entertaining volume. It is curious to trace the variety of lines formed by different nations, and illustrating the genius of the commanders: the long flexible line two deep, and the solid square which can receive cavalry and be no more hurt than a pyramid. Not less valuable is it to watch the change from sword to bow, from bow to pike, from pike to bayonet and fusil, and, finally, up to the arms of precision of to-day; when we are glad to pause, if only to wonder what there will be next. It has been calmly reasoned that before long big battles will be fought by brave Generals simply pulling elastic wires laid on in the back parlour; but, in the meantime, we had better cultivate the use of the short Enfield, and drill our volunteers. On this subject the author is very emphatic. The more drill the better, and rely not upon volunteers only in the face of paid veteran troops. Enthusiasm, he says, frequently compensates for want of discipline, and may even steal a victory; but it will not keep an army together

through long campaigns, privations, and fatiguing marches. Firm order not only impresses the enemy with respect but gives confidence to the soldiers themselves. We can but agree with Lieutenant Stuart's implied shrug of the shoulders at such an army as that of Garibaldi. It had queer work to do, and a queer man at its head; but it never could have maintained itself in the open against even the wretches who composed the Neapolitan troops, without considerable assistance from General Ciallini.

Having described the nature of the book, it only remains to exercise the pleasant duty of recommending it. It is brimful of interesting material, and is written in an agreeable, almost colloquial style, which never runs into contempt, but is free from the mingling of dogmatism, pedantry, and slang, which distinguishes too many books on class subjects. It is a book which is desirable for the Army, and which must be had by the volunteers.

NEW BOOKS FOR THE GENERAL READER.

Agnes Home. New and revised Edition. Illustrated by Maresco Pearce. Simpkin and Co.

The Interviews of Great Men, &c. By the Author of "Heroines of our Time," &c. Darton and Co.

The Shilling Overland Guide to India, Australia, &c. Saunders Otley, and Co.

Joy; or, New Dramatical Charades for Home Performance. By Annemina de Younge. James Blackwood.

Rough Diamonds. A Story Book. By John Hollingshead. Illustrated by H. Sanderson. Low, Son, and Co.

The Circle of Knowledge. A Scientific Class Book. By Charles Baker. Fourth Gradation, 300 Woodcuts. Varty.

Here is a new and revised edition of an anonymous novel, "Agnes Home;" a novel which richly deserves the compliment implied in a second appearance. We know not the hand itself, nor anything else by the same hand; but yet (or, perhaps, we might say therefore) it has excited a strange feeling of interest and a depth of speculation certainly unequalled by any fiction since "Jane Eyre," or "The Scarlet Letter." It is curious to see how a work like "Agnes Home" grows into public favour, and becomes the passion of one season and the classic of the next. The oft-mentioned and as oft-denied "neglect of men of genius" is, to a great extent, a true charge. The purest and finest intellect is too pure and too fine for the multitude of readers; just as "Ramsgate Sands" has its millions of admirers and purchasers, and "The Light of the World" merely its hundreds; just as refined gold will not pass current until leavened with some hardened dross. But Great Britons make up for this neglect by a steady recognition of almost all that is next door to genius. The arrow aimed at the star is beyond their vision, but they recognise that which transfixes the cloud. In such a position is "Agnes Home." It is not exactly a work of genius, but it is a daring book, and accomplishes much that might be envied by practised writers. It is a story of enchanting interest, most original in its fits of retrospection, and in the way in which it will abandon a whole set of characters for years and years until they all startle by coming together at the top of Mont Blanc. The writer is familiar with London and the country, with Paris and Switzerland; and last, not least, he appears quite at home in a desert South Sea Island. His Club Sketches are diversified by a lifelike flash of "Robinson Crusoe"; and the most every day kind of affair is suddenly interrupted by an incident which, though not unnatural as the story goes, is one of the most appalling in modern fiction. He handles a yacht as only a gentleman can; and, as for power, the scene where the yacht fires into the boat will probably be found a trifling too powerful for most delicate readers. It needs simply to be said that all the characters have vitality and the incidents flowing ease and truthfulness, whilst the complications are nevertheless of the most startling kind, and the interest is sustained up to the closing line. It is excellent in its story, in its humour and its pathos; and, if another word be wanting, it displays an intellectual love of good dining which must commend it to everybody who is careless of serving a genteel figure.

"The Interviews of Great Men" would have been better if the interviews had been of more importance, even at the risk of the men being a little less great. The book is absolutely an impertinence—pretentious to a laughable extent, and as full of absurdities as a grape is of juice. It is not addressed to young people, but to those who surely must know all its facts already, and who surely are better without the original information it is said to contain, but which is not very evident on the surface. The writer professes to show the influence of the "Interviews of Great Men" on "Civilisation, from the meeting of Diogenes and Alexander the Great to the final interview of Count Cavour and Victor Emmanuel, developing the characteristics of men who influenced the times in which they lived, and showing where their example is worthy of imitation." This is a grand object in itself, but the book falls wide of the mark. It is a series of biographical and historical chapters, in which the much boasted "interviews" are frequently not even to be found. There are few passages of reflection which a moderately-educated lad would not expose as meretricious nonsense at a second glance, and the views of character are, beyond expression, ridiculous. Of all the great men whose names figure in the book Diogenes is the one most extolled. The tub-philosophy has actually found a disciple in an age when society is more than ever bent upon developing the resources of the world, upon co-operation, and more especially upon exercising broad Christian charity and the interchange of kindly feeling. The first "interview" will be quite sufficient for the student. The illustrations have endeavoured to compete in wretchedness with the letterpress; but the letterpress has won.

The traveller to India or Australia can scarcely do better than purchase Messrs. Saunders and Otley's "Shilling Guide," which really contains all the information that is necessary, besides passages of reflection and advice, which we consider the best parts of the volume. In it will be found exactly what to do, what to eat and drink, what to wear, what to read, what to—; but all the contents cannot be given. As instances of the ultra-thoughtfulness of Messrs. Saunders and Otley, the following may be mentioned:—You will require thirty-six shirts and twenty collars; and in a footnote we read, "if there are collars to the shirts, this number can be reduced." Certainly, there is much learning to be obtained by travel. It appears that three sets of shirt-studs will be required for the voyage, whilst two pairs of sleeve-links will be found ample. In our state of home ignorance we should certainly have taken the same number of each. Again, ladies will be careful to take "three pair of cambric trousers," and "two pairs ditto, trimmed." The latter, of course, will be held sacred to the captain's birthday, and going down ladders. The varieties of bathing accommodation we know not; but, whilst eight towels are sufficient for a gentleman, a lady will require no less than twenty-four. You must be careful of making friendships on board; and you must maintain your self-respect. You will be fined if you enter the ladies' boudoir; and neither lady nor gentleman is permitted to talk to the man at the wheel. Surely one of the wise men of the East have been working Messrs. Saunders and Otley's printing press.

Miss de Younge's "New Dramatical Charades" are of a reasonably simple character, and will probably occupy the attention of many Christmas parties. It is scarcely possible to read many charades at a sitting; but we fancy, from a glance, that these are written with a keen spirit of humour and rendered elegant by occasional flashes of song. In one scene, however, there appears to be a pair of fairies; and the ladies will have to be more compliant than we ever found them on such occasions to assume such characters. In a drawing-room there can be no possible objection to a few spangles and a wand, and a wreath (the one that got tumbled at the party will do) is of course admissible. But Elalume and Amarantha will scarcely consent to other necessary alterations of costume.

Mr. John Hollingshead has collected another packet of magazine papers—yes, actually another—into an elegant little volume called

"Rough Diamonds," with which are associated some characteristic wood engravings by Mr. Sanderson. The half dozen stories are all remarkably amusing and occasionally ingenious. They deal almost entirely with low life. As a specimen of character we recommend the working man in "The Phantom Genius," which our readers will remember as the original of Mr. Toole's admirable acting in "The Birthplace of Podgers."

The fourth gradation of "The Circle of Knowledge" is a monument to the industry of Mr. Baker in collecting and arranging the most valuable information. With the present volume the terrifying department of the schoolmaster has disappeared, and the young student stands in the presence of the professor, astonished to find how very little he knows. A "full, true, and particular account" of the volume, which contains more than 500 closely-printed pages of condensed information, cannot be given here; but a glance at the table of contents will show the breadth and variety of the subjects treated of. An introductory section explains the distinction between Objects and Subjects, Creatures and Human Beings. The body and its parts are then considered, being an account of the anatomy and functions of the human frame. To this naturally succeeds separate sections on Food, on Clothing, and on Dwellings; and in each the ingenuity of man in natural dexterity, and in the infinite variety of implements which he manufactures and employs, is dwelt upon with great fulness, but, at the same time, a conciseness which gives Mr. Baker's labour all that value which a cyclopaedia so frequently enjoys over a complicated series of treatises. "Natural History," the "Mechanical Powers," "Trade and Commerce," "Government," "Social Life," &c., complete the volume, which, in reality, holds in brief all that which is education, apart from instruction, and is necessary knowledge and wisdom to every human being.

THE SHILLING-VOLUME LIBRARY.

The Lady Lisle. By M. E. BRADDON.

The Family Credit, and other Tales. By WESTLAND MARSTON. Which Wins, Love or Money? By LOUIS ULBACH. Ward and Lock

The Shilling-Volume Library is a well conceived design to furnish a series of fictions in the simpler yet more elegant form adopted with success by the French. Mr. Gladstone, in his latest financial scheme, alluded to the superiority both in paper and print in popular French literature over similar productions of our own; of course, foreseeing the possibility of something better than Mrs. Browning's "grey paper with blunt type" for the English fictionist, who appeals to the large classes who wish to preserve the books which they have read. Messrs. Ward and Lock's new series certainly achieve a decidedly readable page, printed on substantial paper, and capable of surviving the most powerful family attacks. For the wounds which will happen to paper covers, cheap splints from the binder alone are requisite, and the book will be recognised as more durable, elegant, and cheaper than any existing series. But a not unimportant matter yet remains to be discussed—the merits of the literature itself.

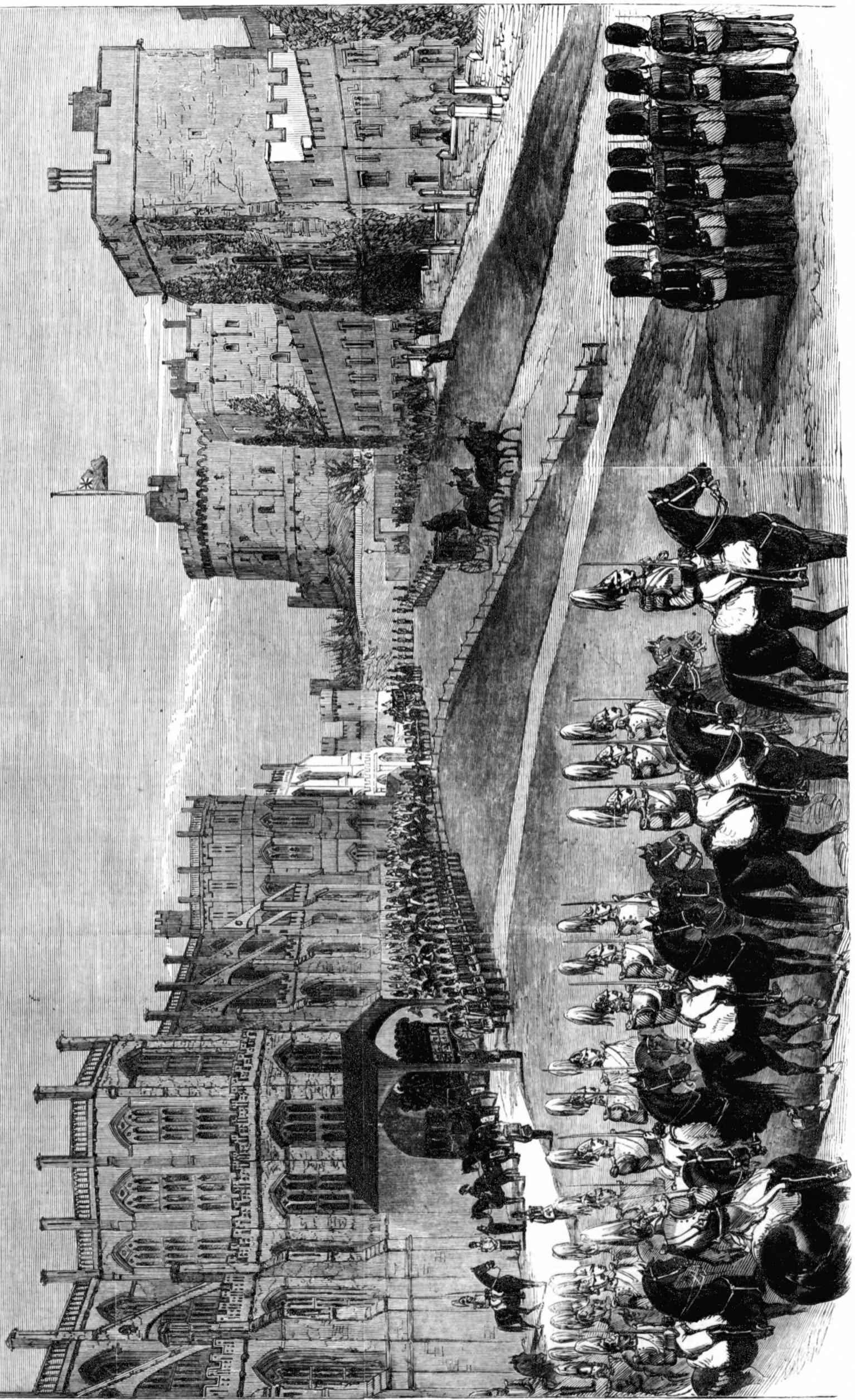
Miss M. E. Braddon's work, "The Lady Lisle," if we mistake not, has already enjoyed much public favour in the columns of a popular contemporary. It is one of those skilfully-constructed stories the plot of which the sagacious reader thinks he has discovered from the very commencement; but many of the sagacious are easily deceived, and the interest of the incidents playing about the Lady Lisle are sustained to the very last page. It is of a pair of villains substituting the son of a convict gatekeeper for a juvenile Baronet who closely resembles him; and this incident (which is, perhaps, not older than the majority of incidents in print) is made the mainspring of exciting scenes, and characters of passion forcible alike in their brutality and their tenderness. Rarely will so many characters, so varied, and so strongly marked, be found within the limits of a half-length fiction. Certain strong impossibilities we shall not point out, but leave an interesting story to be unravelled by the impatient reader.

"Family Credit," by Mr. Westland Marston, has appended to it many stories collected from Mr. Dickens's *Household Words*, which at once testifies to the high character of the volume. But the first and principal tale is new—a tale with as good a moral as could be commanded, but one which, it is to be feared, society is in no mood to see carried out in every-day life; or, if not, we had better shut up our reformatories and gaols, pension all the chaplains, release our convicts, and proclaim the immaculate virtue of Botany Bay and Swan River. In brief, the story, which is extremely interesting, and bearing in mind its author's name, we need scarcely add, is written with vigorous literary ability, shows how a young man in a counting-house, sincerely repenting of a forgery on his employer, may become a wiser and a better man, and marry the employer's daughter. With such people as Percy Witham and Mrs. and Miss Clayton this is shown clearly enough; but Mr. Marston must still pardon a shake of the head at the golden prospect. At least, a word to the unwise might be given in conclusion.

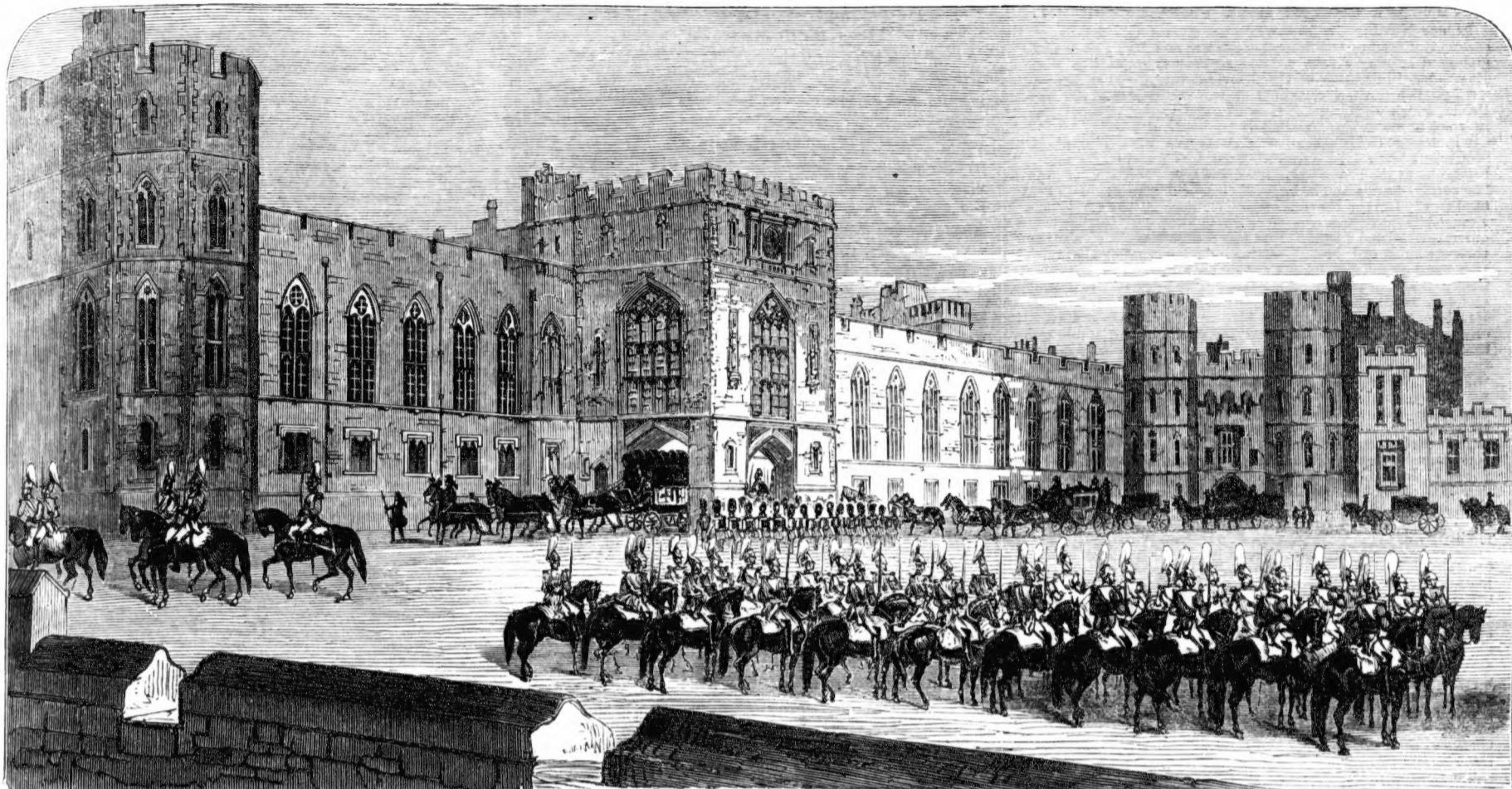
We do not know to what country Mr. Louis Ulbach belongs; but "Which Wins, Love or Money?" is a romance of Jersey life, and, from the peculiar orthography, the author is probably a native of that island. It is not English, and it is not translated French, although a constant use of English idiom and slang indicates a knowledge of the world rising above the proscribed influences of native Jersey society. Here are more rogues (the new series abounds in villains) who are plotting the death of a young widow as a means of becoming possessed of her fabulous fortune. One of them, a doctor, is near succeeding by the use of irritants and laudanum alternately, as prescriptions for a fancied disorder, when his son, educated as a doctor also, arrives from London in time to save the lady, and to marry her himself. Proper justice, without the intervention of the law, falls on the guilty men, and a really astonishing amount of happiness falls to the virtuous survivors. Whilst it is impossible to read the story without great pleasure—for it is full of beauties and quaintnesses sacred to French literature, to which this is at least akin—we must complain of the attempt on human good-nature by having so much worked out by means of superstitious omens and dreams. They may be the rule of faith in St. Heliers or St. Aubyn, but in London they evoke laughter in any area not dedicated to the Cook's Oracle and Napoleon's Book of Fate. With the three volumes before us we may congratulate "The Shilling-Volume Library" upon having commenced well.

ANOTHER DISTURBANCE AT ST. PETERSBURG.—A St. Petersburg letter of the 18th describes a new disturbance amongst the students of the St. Petersburg University:—"Two nights back scenes of disorder again occurred among the students. On the 10th a number of students met in the lecture-room and held a sitting, contrary to the regulations, under the presidency of a professor, who seems to have played a rather equivocal part in this business. One of the officials of the University endeavoured to prevent the discussion, and collared one of the students, who resented the act by a blow, and his assailant was immediately hurried out of the room. M. Patkul, the Chief of the Police, and General Philipson, Curator of the University, were soon on the spot, and appealed the students by all sorts of friendly assurances; but during the night not fewer than fifty of them were arrested and lodged in prison. The next day other scenes occurred, of which we have not learned the particulars; but it is said that the students expected the release of their comrades on the occasion of the fete of the Hereditary Grand Duke, then celebrated. Their hopes were not realised, and they met together to consider what could be done in the case."

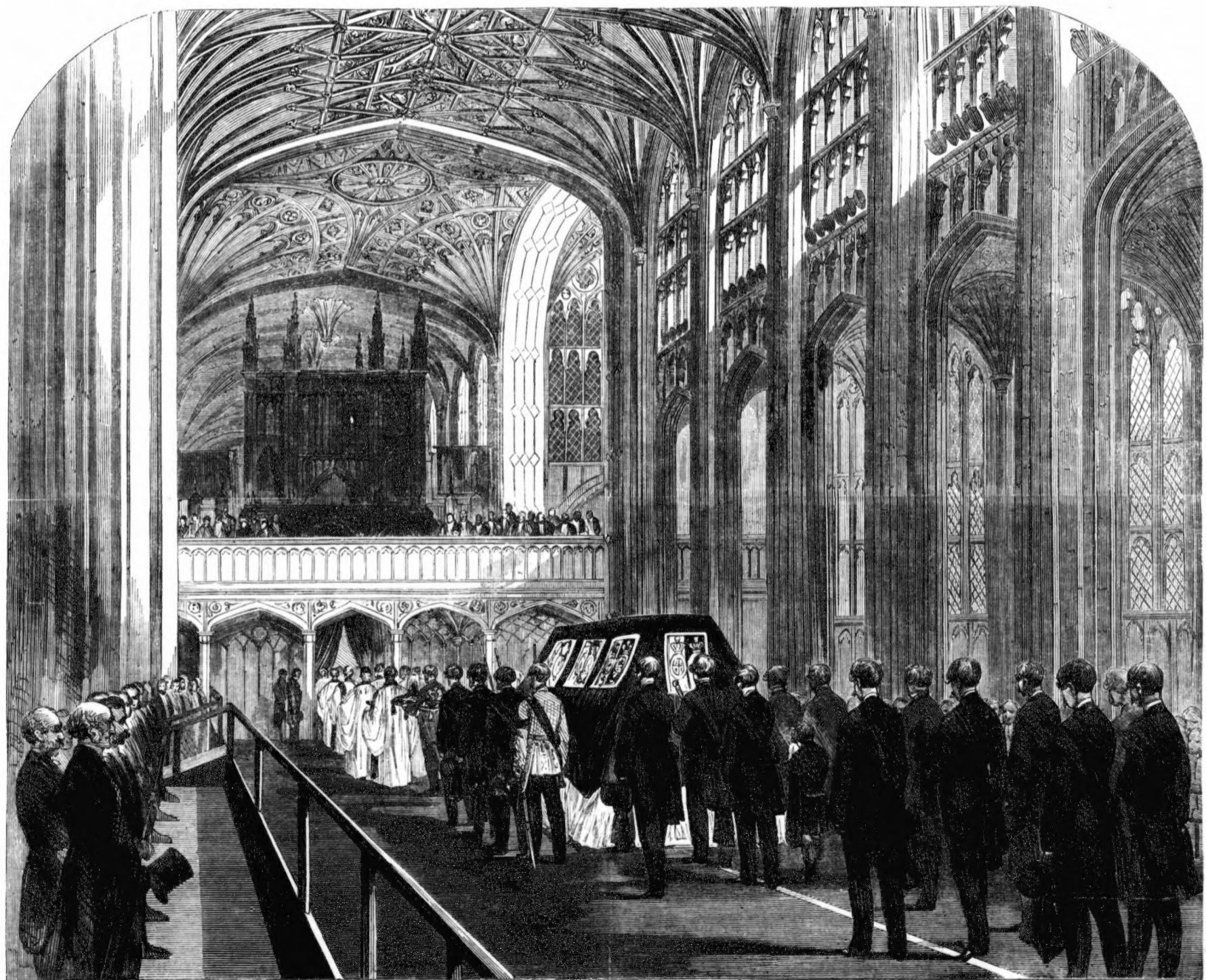
AMUSING BLUNDER.—In the third volume (p. 289) of Sir A. Alison's "Life of Lord Castlereagh," there is a singularly ludicrous slip of the pen, or misprint—for one does not know to which it must be ascribed—that deserves a niche in any future collection of literary curiosities. It occurs in the description of the funeral of the Duke of Wellington, and the passage runs as follows:—"The pall was borne by the Marquises of Anglesea and Londonderry, Lord Gough, Lord Combermere, Lord Seaton, Mr. H. Smith, Sir Charles Napier, Sir Alexander Woodford, and — Sir Peregrine Pickle!" It is difficult to conceive a more ludicrous admixture of fact and fiction, and no less difficult to suggest any explanation of its occurrence. Sir Peregrine Mailland was meant; but, however the blunder arose, surely never was there a more whimsical illustration of the law as to "association of ideas."



FUNERAL OF HIS LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE CONSORT.—THE CORTEGE PROCEEDING FROM THE CASTLE TO ST. GEORGE'S CHAPEL.



THE FUNERAL CORTEGE LEAVING THE STATE APARTMENTS, WINDSOR CASTLE.



THE PROCESSION ALONG THE NAVE.

FUNERAL OF THE LATE PRINCE CONSORT.

In our Number for last week we gave ample details of the ceremony attending the funeral of the late lamented Prince Consort, and need only now refer to that account in connection with the Engravings illustrative of the mournful ceremonial which we this week publish. A few traits of the personal character of the deceased Prince, which we transcribe from an eminent literary contemporary, may not be either uninteresting or uninstructive:—

"Professor Goldstucker a fellow-student with him at Bonn, remembers him as the only Prince who was a real reader there. 'I believe,' says the Professor, in a letter which we are allowed to quote, 'he never missed a single lecture.' It was not the way with Princes at Bonn. During the first year of Prince Albert's residence in England he gave much time to a thorough study of English law and our constitutional history—reading the best authors, abstracting their accounts, and, by help of good guides, discussing the principles tested and established in our several civil wars. Few English gentlemen know the statute book so well as he knew it. It is no great secret that at the interviews between Prince Albert and the Emperor Napoleon, the former thought it his duty to Europe to endeavour by arguments drawn from the history of events in England to engage the Emperor in a more constitutional course than he has yet adopted in France. The Emperor had, we believe, the highest respect for the intelligence of his illustrious adviser. In thinking of what was most characteristic and individual about the late Prince Consort, we feel in the same difficulty as one who would point out the characteristic features of a beautiful face and head, where every part is perfect and all the parts are in equilibrium. That which, perhaps, most characterised Prince Albert mentally was his singular power of acquiring knowledge; he was truly 'wax to receive and marble to retain' impressions. Though of late he had not much time, he read the best books and papers—knew the last literary and artistic gossip—could chat about the lion of the season with the familiarity of a club lounging. His knowledge of personality was very great; of portraits, of biography, of family history, and of all the illustrations of such studies—engravings, memoirs, caricatures, ballads, and the small scraps of literature—he was amazingly fond. The trait which personally distinguished him from other men was his daily and hourly interest in the education of his children; not only the moral education, which no English parent ever does, or under any circumstances ought to, neglect; but the ordinary training of the schoolroom. Of course, the Royal Princes and Princesses had many masters and mistresses, but their chief instructor was the Prince. He not only furnished a general plan for their instruction, but superintended it himself—not only appointed to each one his and her teachers, but thought it his duty to read every book which any of them was about to read. Of how many English gentlemen could the same be said?"

The remains of his late Royal Highness will rest in the entrance to the Royal vault in St George's Chapel, Windsor, where they have been deposited, till the completion and consecration of a mausoleum to be erected hereafter. We observe that it is proposed to erect monuments to the Prince in London; in Peel Park, Salford; in Manchester; and other places.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 1862.

THE PAST YEAR.

IT is the custom of the journals at the close of each succeeding year to review the historical and social occurrences by which it has been distinguished. Those of 1861 have been neither few nor uninteresting in their relation to our country. The Parliamentary Session rendered itself memorable by a repeal of the oppressive paper duty. As yet, and while this repeal is scarce three months old, fair opportunity has not been afforded for judgment upon its practical results. The bankrupt law has been amended by a new Act, rendering relief under it applicable alike to traders and non-traders, and practically abolishing the old Insolvent Courts, thus sweeping into oblivion a heap of ancient legal traditional lore. The consolidation of the criminal statutes has been proceeded with to a considerable extent, and the law is now extended to reach many offences which hitherto were able to elude its grasp.

In the metropolis, the main sewer drainage has been actively commenced, and is steadily and rapidly progressing. The new bridge at Westminster has been sufficiently completed to allow of its use, and another, long projected and urgently required, has been already begun from the Horseferry-road, Westminster, to Lambeth Church. Hungerford-bridge, having proved a failure, is to be transported to Clifton, and replaced by a railway tube, and Blackfriars is doomed to give way to a more elaborate, and, let us hope, a more enduring structure. Plans for the junction of the various railways now converging in London are being quickly carried into effect, and of these not the least remarkable is the underground railway, which we have already described and illustrated. A new street is being laid out in the borough of Southwark to afford better access to London-bridge from the south-west. Certain vile haunts at the back of the Strand, inclosed in the block between it and Lincoln's Inn, yet remain as a disgrace to the metropolis, but their destruction appears at least to be a matter of time only.

The reduction of the duty on French wines has produced the effect of a steady increase in their consumption. Our misjudging friends the teetotalers, who some time since formed such an incomprehensible league with the publicans in resisting these comparatively harmless rivals of ardent spirits, have had no opportunity of vindicating the truth of their prophecies. Certainly, no police case has yet been reported in which a prisoner has attributed his drunkenness or crime to the influence of cheap burgundy at 2s. 3d., or chablis at 1s. 9d. Moreover, a most healthful sign has lately become manifest in relation to public-houses. A large

majority of licensed victuallers—indeed, in the large thoroughfares, all of them—have returned to their proper trade, as shown in its name, and now dispense excellent food as well as drink. The old, nasty, dirty "slap-bang" shop, with its steaming counter and sodden meat, has almost become extinct; but against this picture we have to record a sad fact—namely, that the adulteration of ardent spirits appears still to be practised at establishments of inferior grade, with a fearful result upon the health and morals of the poorer classes. Some of the medical journals have already pointed out the probable effect of this adulteration in its incitement to crime. In relation to this painful topic, we may mention that while during the last year offences against property appear to have decreased, those against the person have been painfully frequent. We speak not of such exceptional cases as those of the terrible Northumberland-street tragedy, in which a cold-blooded assassin was horribly done to death by his intended victim, or of the mysterious attack by the Baron de Vidil upon his son. We would point rather to daily, almost hourly, brutal assaults brought under the cognizance of the police, and generally committed under the maddening influence of poisonous liquor. Reflection on this point cannot but be saddening. But beyond the drink there appears to us to be another cause which it is the bounden duty of our pastors and public teachers to combat, and which yet they strangely overlook. The language of our lower orders has reached the utmost limit of foulness and degradation, and the very children are no whit behind their parents in this respect. When a ruffian can in no way give vent to his passion in words stronger than those of his ordinary conversation, he flies to blows as a matter of course.

Numerous assassinations by private soldiers have distinguished this year. Any intimation of these having their origin in improper treatment of the men by their superiors is scouted by the authorities. Of course, much can be said on each side, but it is certainly not the rule that men properly trained and treated should turn upon and massacre those above them.

The volunteer movement has not decreased in popularity, although many volunteers whose first eagerness for novelty led them to swell its ranks have retired, perhaps without materially diminishing the actual strength of the corps. Far more serious has been the loss in consequence of dissensions, directly attributable to the total misapprehension by certain aristocratic commanding officers of the sentiments and spirit of the middle classes, by whom this great national movement has been so successfully originated and carried into effect. On the other hand, those noblemen (we name Lord Banelagh with especial gratitude) who have had the tact to appreciate the men, have earned rare popularity for themselves, and contributed incalculably to the progress of the volunteer system.

Sad shadows fall upon the closing year. We need not here mention the name of that great one in the land whose ashes are scarce yet cold. Among the illustrious dead of this twelve-month the name of Lord Herbert calls for the tribute at least of honourable remembrance. This year have also died the astute Sir James Graham, and the frank, outspoken Duncombe, of Finsbury. While we write the great question of peace or war with a powerful State, of our own kin and language, pends still in the balance. In this sadness and in this anxiety we leave the Old Year, to enter, not, however, without firm hope and confidence, upon the New.

THE REVENUE.

Quarter ended Dec. 31, 1861	Quarter ended Dec. 31, 1862	Year ended Dec. 31, 1861	Year ended Dec. 31, 1860	Year ended Dec. 31, 1861	
				Net Revenue.	Net Revenue.
£	£	£	£	£	£
Customs...	6,147,000	5,861,000	23,774,000	23,032,395	741,605
Excise...	3,896,000	4,359,000	18,161,000	19,069,000	908,000
Stamps...	2,098,000	2,036,000	8,488,170	8,284,258	202,912
Taxes...	1,282,000	1,293,000	3,119,000	3,126,000	7,000
Property—ax...	2,359,000	3,530,000	9,962,000	12,901,816	2,939,816
Post Office...	910,000	880,000	3,500,600	3,420,000	80,600
Crown Lands...	84,000	83,000	293,479	289,568	3,911
Miscellaneous...	292,039	228,348	1,306,202	1,843,458	537,256
Total...	17,068,039	18,270,318	68,603,851	71,967,495	1,028,428 4 392,072

Net decrease ... £3,363,644

In the Revenue Returns for the quarter and year, up to Tuesday inclusive, there is a net decrease on the quarter of £1,202,309, and on the year of £3,363,644

The decreases are:—

EXCISE—£463,000 on the quarter; postponed hop duty, repeal of paper duty, and payment of the drawback (diminished by increased receipts from malt and spirits). £908,000 on the year; arising as above, and upon malt, consequent upon the increased receipt from the shortening of the malt credit in the preceding year (lessened by increases upon spirits and licenses).

LAND AND ASSESSED TAXES.—Small decreases, calling for no observation.

INCOME TAX.—£1,171,000 on the quarter, £2,939,816 on the year. Explained partly by the reduced rate of tax; but mainly in consequence of the late passing of the Income-tax Act last Session, which makes the collection of the duty in arrear.

MISCELLANEOUS—£537,256 on the year. The receipt from the Spanish Government in the previous year explains this difference.

The increases are:—

CUSTOMS.—£286,000 on the quarter; on nearly every item except corn. £741,605 on the year; a general increase, except on corn, geneva, tobacco, &c.

STAMPS.—£62,000 on the quarter, £202,912 on the year, principally on deeds, legacy duty, &c.

POST OFFICE.—£30,000 on the quarter, 80,000 on the year; increased correspondence.

CROWN LANDS.—Slight increases.

MISCELLANEOUS.—£63,691 on the quarter arising from increased contribution, payable from the revenues of India in respect of her Majesty's forces in India.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has presented £100 to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

THE REMAINS OF GENERAL SIR EDWARD BOWATER, who was lately in charge of Prince Leopold, were brought on Monday from Cannes by the Boulogne and Folkestone route to London.

DURING THE FUNERAL OF THE PRINCE CONSORT, a dumb peal was rung in Dunmow Church by a father and three sons, an uncle, and a nephew. Such an occurrence has not transpired at Dunmow for thirty-six years.

LOD PALMERSTON refused to allow his name to be put in nomination for the office of Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, "from his advanced years, and from his unwillingness to add to the many heavy burdens which already rest upon his shoulders."

THE DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE was on Tuesday elected Chancellor of the University of Cambridge without opposition—the Dukes of Buccleuch and Northumberland, who had been put in nomination, having declined to stand.

A TELEGRAM FROM CALCUTTA dated Nov. 29 announces that the Indian Council Act has been proclaimed.

EVERY REGIMENT AT ALDERSHOT has been medically inspected, so as to be ready to embark immediately for active service in Canada.

SIR JAMES FERGUSON, M.P., has sustained an accident while hunting, his horse having inflicted a severe wound upon his head, and the hon. Baronet is temporarily incapacitated from the discharge of public business. His injuries are not of such a nature as to confine him much longer to his room.

THE REV. DR. GUTHRIE preached in the Free College Church, Glasgow, on Sunday forenoon last, when a special appeal was made in order to clear off the debt on the edifice, and the large sum of £2630 was put into the collection plate.

HER MAJESTY'S CUTTER BADGER was run down in King-town Harbour by the London steamer Leda on Saturday evening last. The cutter was literally split in two, and immediately sank. The crew were saved, but lost all their clothes, &c.

EARL GREY left town last week for Nice to join the Countess, who has arrived there from Florence. The Earl and Countess do not intend returning to England before March.

A MONUMENT TO SIR HUMPHRY DAVY, which will include a bronze statue, is about to be erected at Penzance. The idea originated with the working men of that locality. No one could be more deserving of such an honour than the inventor of the Davy lamp.

DON JUAN DE BOURBON has addressed a letter to the King of Italy, dated from London, in which, "as head of the family of the Spanish Bourbons," he renounces "all eventual right to the sovereignty of any part of Italy."

M. MICHELET, who is residing near Toulon, has just completed a work on the Times of Louis XIV.

THE WORKMEN engaged upon the eastern dome of the Exhibition building at Kensington struck work on Monday, and those engaged on the western dome on Tuesday. The strike, however, is not expected to be of long duration.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has conferred the Order of the Black Eagle upon Marshal Vaillant, Marshal Magnan, and upon M. Thouvenel, the French Minister of Foreign Affairs.

THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT has communicated to the Federal Council the note which it recently addressed to its representative at Washington, supporting England in the affair of the Trent.

A PARIS PAPER says that, in the event of the reply of President Lincoln being unfavourable, Lord Lyons will provisionally intrust the interests of his countrymen to the Minister of France.

It is stated that the Prussian Government has made fresh proposals with reference to the conclusion of a treaty of commerce between France and the Zollverein.

THE GLOVE MANUFACTURERS AT GRENOBLE have just received large orders from England on the occasion of the prevailing mourning. One house has received orders to the amount of 20,000.

SOME FINE SPECIMENS OF MUSK, blackwood, myrtle, and other Tasmanian woods adapted for cabinet work, are on their way to the great International Exhibition in London.

THE EMPEROR NAPOLEON has for several days past amused himself with skating on the Bois de Boulogne, opposite to Bagatelle and near the race-course of Longchamp. The Emperor was accompanied by a very skilful skater, who attracted his Majesty's attention last season. The Empress likewise has appeared on the ice in a sledge.

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT WEEK one of the camels belonging to Sangers's Circus, now at Leeds, gave birth to a fine male calf, which it is now sucking. Such an occurrence is very unusual in England, and has excited considerable interest.

THE NEW KING OF MADAGASCAR has intimated to Father Jean, a missionary and the particular friend of his Majesty, his intention to become a Roman Catholic.

HIS IMPERIAL HIGHNESS PRINCE JEROME BONAPARTE has taken a mansion in the Cromwell-road, South Kensington.

A POOR WOMAN murdered her infant at Brighton the other day, and then attempted to destroy her own life, while labouring under insanity.

NO LESS THAN SIX LONDON PAPERS were seized in Paris on Saturday—*The Herald, Standard, Daily News, Globe, Telegraph, and Chronicle*.

MR. JOHN BRIDGE ASPINAL, of the Northern Circuit, has been appointed Recorder of Liverpool, in the room of the late Mr. Gilbert Henderson.

It is estimated that in nine years' time the population of Victoria, in Australia, will be one million. In 1856 it was under two hundred.

AT DERRINGSTONE, near Barham, on the 19th inst., the wife of William Knott, a carpenter, was safely delivered of three children, all daughters, and all living. There is every prospect of the trio doing well, and also their mother.

THE MANCHESTER LOCAL COMMITTEE have handed to Mr. John Taylor, general treasurer of the British Association, the substantial balance of £3,659 9s. 8d., arising from the late meeting in that town.

THE PRINCES OF ORLEANS, who had entered the service of the United States in the struggle against the South, have suddenly come to the resolution to return to Europe.

THE ALGIERS JOURNALS state that Bombonnel, the panther-killer, had left that city to join Chassaigne, the destroyer of lions, both being about to commence a hunting expedition against the noble beasts in the eastern part of the colony.

THOMAS JACKSON, private in the 78th Highlanders, convicted of the murder of Sergeant Dickson at Aldershot, was hanged at Winchester on Friday week.

THE CORPORATION OFFICIALS OF WINDSOR have published a report showing that the sanitary condition of the town is in a most satisfactory state. The reason for taking this step was, that certain surmises to the contrary had got abroad in consequence of the death of the late Prince Consort.

A LARGE PORTION OF LAND AT MANI, in the Sandwich Islands, has been prepared for the growing of cotton. The King of those islands and Prince Kamehama-ha are both deeply interested in the speedy introduction and rapid development of the cotton culture in their dominions.

THE MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF PARIS gave a grand banquet to M. Berryer last week, on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of his inscription as one of that body. M. Jules Favre proposed M. Berryer's health, and all the most eminent members of the Bar, including Judges and Ministers, were present.

A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED PIPER drowned herself at Exeter last week in consequence of the brutal illusage on the part of her father to which she was continually subjected.

ROACH MILL, a cotton-spinning establishment on the banks of the Derwent, was totally destroyed by fire last week. This is the second time within six years that the mill in question has been burnt down.

THE REV. MR. HOLLOWAY, who was tried and convicted at a late Session of the Central Criminal Court of various robberies in connection with railroads and sentenced to a term of eighteen months' imprisonment, died of fever on Monday, in the House of Correction, Coldbath-fields, after an illness of four days.

THE R. BEL SCHOONER W. MALLORY arrived at Havannah on the 5th ult. from Mobile. She would have brought a cargo of cotton, but the authorities at Mobile would not permit it. Vessels are clearing at Havannah every day for Southern ports, and very few of them are captured. They carry coffee, for which they realise large profits.

THE BREED OF CASHMERE GOATS has been successfully introduced into the United States. The pure breed require no special attention, and but little feeding. They browse on weeds and bushes, and are best adapted for a rough country. The average weight of fleece of a full grown pure buck is from 5lb. to 7lb., and of ewes about 4lb.

On the arrival of the 5.45 mail-train at Plymouth the other morning, James Nolan, a seaman, was found dead in one of the compartments of a second-class carriage from a severe fracture of his skull. There was no other person in the compartment, and his luggage, money, and watch, were found with him. His injuries appear to have been received accidentally.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

The result of the Nottingham contest has taken outsiders by surprise, but not those who know the history of this borough. The candidates were Lord Lincoln and Sir Robert Clifton. The Earl of Lincoln is the son of the Duke of Newcastle, and heir to the dukedom. This young gentleman was in Parliament from 1857 to 1859 for Newark. In the former year he was elected without opposition, but in 1859 he was at the bottom of the poll. His Lordship achieved no fame or position whilst he was in the House. When Lord Lincoln appeared in the field Sir Morton Peto rushed down to Nottingham and stood godfather for him, answering for the excellency of the noble Lord's character and the soundness of his political opinions. Why Sir Morton Peto should have done this it is difficult to say; but that it was a brave and chivalrous thing to do—considering that Sir Morton is a Dissenter, high in estimation for piety and good work, and Lord Lincoln is what we know—no one will deny. Sir Robert Clifton inherits one of King James the First's baronetcies, and lives in the county; but furthermore I know nothing of Sir Robert Clifton, except what he has told us—to wit, that he is a Radical, and that an ancestor of his represented Nottinghamshire in 1291, temp. Edward I. The result, as I have said, is not surprising. The fight was not so much a political struggle as a battle between the castle and the town. It is generally so at Nottingham. It was so in 1841, when the Nottingham men elected Mr. Walter, a Conservative, in preference to Mr. Larpent, a Liberal; and again in 1847, when they placed Mr. Walter and Fergus O'Connor over the heads of Mr. Gisborne and Sir John Cam Hothouse (Lord Broughton). The feud at Nottingham between the castle and the town is very old—dates back, perhaps, to the old days long before the castle came into the possession of the Clintons. It will be remembered that in 1831, i.e. Reform riot, the castle (which, by-the-way, was only a castle in name) was gutted and burnt by the rioters. It is worthy of notice in reviewing this election that not many more than half the voters polled, if the return of the number of electors is correct, Clifton polled 2513, Lincoln, 1122: total, 3635; but the number of registered electors, according to Dod, is 6012. There were therefore 2177 voters left unpolled. I rather think, though, that Dod's return is inaccurate, for I observe that there are at Nottingham 1861 freemen, and it is more than probable that many, if not most, of these are registered both as freemen and householders. Still, there must have been a considerable number who did not poll. These were, most likely, Conservatives, who stood sulkily by, and would vote for neither of the candidates.

The Navy Reserve scheme is a great success. There are now more than 10,000 seamen upon the list, all available in case of war for the British Navy. Indeed, I am told that there is no lack of men for the Navy now. Already the number of British seamen afloat or ready amounts to over 70,000; and others are offering themselves every day. It is only in time of peace that we get anxious about manning the Navy; as soon as the trumpet of war sounds an alarm all anxiety vanishes.

The weekly organ of a section of the Conservatives, *The Press*, lately made the following announcement:—"We are in a position to state that her Majesty's Government, &c., &c., have taken measures to commence hostilities the moment the return of Lord Lyons shall announce the rupture of diplomatic relations. The instructions given to our Ambassador are imperative; he has no discretion left; he must either send us the Commissioners or come back himself. So that by the end of the month we shall have at Liverpool either Messrs. Slidell and Mason or Lord Lyons—and war." Well the end of the month has come, and we have neither the Commissioners nor Lord Lyons—and war. Indeed, it was quite impossible that by the end of the month we could have had either. Neither do I believe that the despatch of Earl Russell was of this peremptory character. He almost said as much to a deputation of the Dissenting denominations; and I am, I think, "in a position to know" that it was a calm, argumentative document, and that the *Press* knows nothing about it. The old Roman ceremony in such cases was very picturesque and dramatic, and when reproduced at a theatre or at a public school now is very effective. But England is not Rome, nor is America Carthage, nor are we in the year 218 B.C., but in the year 1862 A.D. The editor of the *Press* must have been dreaming of his schooldays.

The *Examiner* and the *Daily Telegraph* have fallen foul of the Bishop of Oxford because his Lordship declared that the death of the Prince Consort was a Divine judgment for national sin. There can be no doubt that such a sentiment is now very repugnant to the feelings and opinions of a vast majority of the English people; but, if this be so, what a stride we must have taken during the last half-century! for I do not hesitate to assert that this doctrine of the Bishop was universally believed by all parties, sects, and denominations less than fifty years ago; and that if any one had impugned this doctrine at the time of the death of the Princess Charlotte, he would have been as surely denounced as a heretic as the writers of the "Essays and Reviews" are now. Robert Hall was not thought to be narrow or bigoted; but in that famous sermon of his on the death of Princess Charlotte, he clearly recognised the visitation as a judgment of God on account of national sins. In short, until comparatively lately, there can be no question that this doctrine was as firmly and extensively held by the universal Church as it was by the Jews before the Divine Teacher came to teach the world better. I do not mention this to entirely exculpate the Bishop, for he ought to be abreast of modern growth. It may, however, mitigate our anger, especially when we recollect that there are few more difficult things in the world to do than to pick off piece by piece the erroneous theological accretions of our younger days. At a Turkish bath the shampoer will easily rub off the dead skin of our flesh; but there is, unhappily, no patent way to get off the dead skin of the mind. And then think of the environments of a Bishop, and how impossible it is for him to grow as other people do!

I well remember the night when Lord Palmerston announced to the House of Commons that all negotiations with Russia were at an end, and that war was decided upon. Solemnly and silently the House received the announcement. An attempt was made by a few young Conservatives to get up a cheer, but it failed. The House felt that cheering was out of place. There was, however, unanimity almost entire. If however, war, should be declared against America it is quite clear that there will not be the same unanimity as to that. On the contrary, it is obvious now that there will be a strong minority against it, and in such case we shall have a stormy and distracted Session, though, perhaps, not a very busy one. No, not a busy one, certainly, for a war would absorb all our thoughts, and kill for a time all projects of legislative reform. The Russian War did this to a large extent; but the Russian War was a mere trifle to what an American war would be. Some men talk as if we could "chaw up" the Americans at once; but this is mere bluster. Right or wrong, we may rely upon it that war with the United States, if once begun, will be long; as to the issue, doubtful; and, under any circumstances, a most horrible contest. I must confess I have no belief in this possible war; no belief in its necessity; none in its ultimate success. I believe that it will be a diabolical business, and in the end perfectly resultless—as nine wars out of ten are. No, not exactly resultless, for some results are inevitable—to wit, an increased debt, ruin of commerce, vast destruction of human life, and bitterness of feeling which may lead to other wars, and which it will take centuries to correct.

Nor will there be unanimity in the House upon the "question between the North and the South. It is well, I think, that in the middle and lower strata of society sympathy is largely with the North. But there are unmistakable signs that this unanimity does not prevail in the highest stratum. There you have strong Southern sympathies, as we shall see when Parliament meets. Why this should be so I will not pretend to say, but that Mr. Gregory is not alone is now quite obvious.

The examination of the witnesses in the great Windham case, now under inquiry, has let light into a great many social matters which have hitherto been purposely kept in a twilight obscurity. The public, however, have reason to be thankful for the information they have received as to the manner in which life and property are cared for by the directors of that admirably managed institution, the Eastern Counties Railway. Mr. Windham, we find, was in the habit of treating the guards to champagne and sherry, of dressing in the guards' clothes, wearing their belts, and starting and stopping the trains by the use of the guards' whistles. This is pleasant to hear! The lives of ladies and children going to Cromer or Lowestoft, or gentlemen running down for a little shooting in Suffolk, are at the mercy of any wretched slobbering imbecile who may have money enough to bribe the guard into making over to him his dress and his functions! We are informed with great emphasis by Mr. Montagu Chambers that the stable-door is now shut, that the directors have given strict orders for the discontinuance of such practices. With all due respect to Mr. Chambers, the directors' orders are not worth one rip, are no more efficacious than the code of by-laws signed "Granville" and "Edward Ryan," and nearly worn off the weather-stained board on which so many years ago they were painted. We all know that no one ever smokes in a railway carriage, or ever bribes a guard to keep a *coupi*, or fees a porter for calling a cab. We know how well the "strict orders" of the directors are always obeyed. The guard who gave evidence of Mr. Windham's pranks has resigned his Eastern Counties' trust, and is, it appears, going to Australia. Thither may his fame precede him, and may he obtain a lucrative and responsible berth immediately on landing.

A monthly contemporary is mistaken in stating that Mr. Sala has succeeded from the *Illustrated London News*. Mr. Sala was absent from England for some few weeks; but he is back again, and his column will be at once resumed.

For many years the legion of admirers of Mr. Charles Dickens who wished to possess his portrait were compelled to content themselves with engravings after Macleish's picture. This, though a good likeness of the author of "Nicholas Nickleby," gave but little notion of the great author in his prime; but within the last few months a perfect shower of *cartes de visite*, representing Mr. Dickens now thoughtfully at his desk, now defiant in his chair, now carefully balancing his hat, and now gracefully elbow-recumbent upon a stove, has poured into the shop-windows. These are all very well, but they are not lasting: the photograph-album is agreeable enough, but one likes to see the portrait of your friend on the dining-room wall among other pleasant faces. Such a desideratum in the case of Mr. Dickens has at length been arrived at. From a capital photograph by Mr. John Watkins, of Parliament-street, Mr. Richard Lane, R.A., has engraved a most excellent head of Charles Dickens; the expression is a little grave, almost to sternness, but is by no means unpleasant, and it is one which will be immediately recognised by his friends. This is certainly the portrait of Mr. Dickens which best represents the man, and as such it will, doubtless, become universally popular.

Mr. Mark Lemon, the editor of *Punch* from its earliest establishment, is about to make his appearance before the public at the Gallery of Illustration with an entertainment which he calls "About London," and which will be a gossip about the metropolis in ancient and modern times, illustrated with pictures, maps, and diagrams. The public will thus have the opportunity of making the personal acquaintance of a very genial, jovial gentleman, possessing enormous animal spirits, a fund of anecdote, and great powers of mimicry. Could they pass a couple of hours with a pleasanter comrade?

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Cornhill* opens with the usual instalment of "Philip": "pleasant, agreeable, amusing as ever. Of story there is not the smallest pretence; but what do we want with action while we can read such merry nonsense, such philosophical trifling? Mr. Thackeray is no 'sensation' novelist, as we all know by this time, and, to keep up the theatrical metaphor, relies more on his dialogue than his 'effects.' Of course old General Baynes and old Colonel Bunch don't fight; and of course the former irascible old imbecile is brought round to confess his folly, and to assume a conjugal position more in keeping with his rights. A very raw romancer could have done thus much with the story: but the manner in which it is done,—in which the MacWhirter intercence is first caviled at, then—blown; in which the sweet womanhood of Madame Smolensk is exhibited—is unapproachable—exquisite in its truth, its tenderness, its raillery. "A Election Contest in Australia" gives a new view of life in that colony: the paper is smartly written, and is not disfigured by the burlesqued names of places and persons. "To Esther" is a moderately good story, modelled in thought and expression on Mr. Thackeray's style. An article, "At the Play," dull enough in itself, will attract attention from Mr. Bennett's illustrations, which are clever, but certainly not comic. Mr. Bennett is becoming confirmed as a man-of-letters—a very bad thing in a young artist with his position yet to make. Mr. Doyle's cartoon of "Dining Down the River" is really very good: the drunken man on the balcony—so limp, so helpless, so vacuous—is a capital sketch. The two fatal serials which nobody reads—Mr. Trollope's "Brown, Jones, and Robinson," and Mrs. Stowe's "Agnes of Sorrento"—occupy the usual number of pages. There are padding articles on "Liberalism," and "The Fairy Land of Science," and a Roundabout Paper on "Diaries," weakly amiable and childishly sportive, as usual, with a bit of real manly writing in the concluding paragraph.

Who is the author of "Catarina in Venice," and who ever read that doubtless admirable work? For my sins I am ignorant; but the writer of a new story in *Fraser*, called "Thalatta! Thalatta!" so distinguishes himself. The great unknown writes smartly enough, and with a not unpleasant tone of self-sufficiency: he will probably soon find that jerkiness is his great bane, and will settle down into a pleasant, even stride. So far as I can see, he seems to possess the matter, but not the manner, of a good novelist. He cannot, then, do better than read and study Mr. G. A. Lawrence's new tale of "Barren Honour," which, month by month, works out capitally and promises to equal if not surpass his previous books. A. K. H. B. sends a capital essay this month, "Concerning the World's Opinion." There is all his usual benevolence, sweetness of thought, kindheartedness, and geniality; but added to these there is a dash of humour hitherto undiscovered by me in the writings of my favourite essayist. I like his speaking of a man who "will gain a reputation for want of common sense which it will be very difficult to get rid of;" and I find immense delight (of a somewhat cynical nature) in the sentence, "Let it not be engraven on your tombstone 'Here lies the man who contended the human race on the question of the wideawake hat.'" The rest of the contents of *Fraser* are not very edifying. A thoroughly Scotch article on "Early Scottish Poetry," a dull Greek ballad, a heavy paper on "Comets," and a review of Professor Max Müller's work on the science of language, will not attract the generality of magazine readers. The final article, "The Close of 1861," is well worthy of perusal; its testimony to the personal character of Prince Albert, and its general reflections on his loss, are manly, earnest, and thoroughly English.

Blackwood opens with the continuation of the Christmas story "Wassail," followed by an article based on Mr. Thornbury's recent biography of J. M. Turner, a biography which is said by the critic to be "a chaos of material without arrangement or form; full of repetitions, affectations, and cockneyisms of every conceivable degree of bad taste." Those persons undiscerning of wading through Mr. Thornbury's volumes will find very sufficient *résumé* of them in *Blackwood*. There are also continuations of "The Chronicles of Carlingford" and "Dr. Clutterbuck's Champagne," a querulous article on the "New Education Minute," and a warm genial eulogy on the late Prince Consort. The verses at the end of the number—

"The Nation's Prayer"—are Sternholdian in their simplicity, and Hopkins-like in their rhythm.

In the January number of *Temple Bar* Mr. G. A. Sala commences a new story in an entirely new style. "The Adventures of Captain Dangerous" occur in the early years of the eighteenth century, and in the language of the latter years of that century they are related by him who experienced them. Those who only know Mr. Sala as the exponent of modern life will be astonished at the aptitude with which he has caught the style of the times, and all novel readers will be delighted with the manner in which their attention is at once arrested. Another new story of modern life, called "Aurora Floyd," is also commenced in this number. Some verses, "In Memoriam, December 14, 1861," though pure Tennysonian echoes, have the merit of earnest feeling and faultless scanning. There are two other poetical contributions—"Christmas in the City," somewhat mystic, but refined and touching; and a sparkling set of verses, called "A Castle in Spain." "The Morals of the Decade" shows what changes have taken place in our national taste, literature, &c., since the last Great Exhibition. "In the Name of the Prophet—Smith!" is a *résumé* of Captain Burton's recent book of Mormon experiences: and the usual scientific padding is to be found in "Ancient Forests and Modern Fuel" and "The Egyptian Galleries at the British Museum."

Macmillan's, St. James's, &c., will be noticed next week.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

To be ubiquitous is part of the characteristics expected in a dramatic critic at this season of the year—to go everywhere and see everything, and "do a notice" of all. I have been to most of the dissolute theatres, and have gleaned accounts of the rest from trusty friends who make it their pleasure-business to visit every pantomime in London, during the first week, and here is the result of my labours.

DRURY LANE distinctly leads the van; it has entirely distanced all its competitors, and left everything else far behind. Mr. E. L. Blanchard is (of course) its author, and he has combined the two stories of "The House that Jack Built" and "Mother Hubbard." Mr. Beverley's scene of "The Witches' Glen," and the transformation, "Will o' the Wisp's Fairy Home," are marvels of painting and elaboration. The expense of getting up this last effect must have been enormous. Well may Mr. E. T. Smith, when he makes his nightly appearance in answer to vociferous calls lay his hand upon his waistcoat pocket! He must have dipped his fingers into it pretty often; but he will be repaid, as he deserves. The house is always crowded.

COVENT GARDEN has a pantomime founded on "Gulliver's Travels," which has the advantage of being acted by Messrs. W. H. Payne and his son Frederick, probably the best pantomimists in the world. All their opening business is very good, studied and artistic to a degree; but the author has not been very happy, and a little more expenditure in one or two items would have wonderfully helped the "go" of the affair. In the comic part Mr. W. H. Payne makes a very good Clown. A novel feature which has of late years come into vogue of using the scenery of the pantomimes for advertising purposes is "worked" pretty effectively at several of the theatres this year, and at none more efficiently than at Covent Garden, where, among others, the scene representing Breidenbach's perfumery warehouse is very striking.

THE PRINCESS' pantomime is furnished by Mr. Byron, and founded on the story of "Whittington and his Cat." The story is pretty closely followed, and is the medium for the exhibition of some magnificent scenery and very elaborate costumes. The two great features of the performance are the Cat, played by Master Haslean, and the Pantaloons of Mr. Paulo, a performance of the old school, full of quiet humour.

Mr. Buckstone writes his own pantomime for the HAYMARKET, and has this year woven together the legends of "Little Miss Muffet" and "Little B'by Blue." There is not a very great deal of fun, it must be confessed; the pantomime is very genteel, but not too comic. However, it gives scope for Mr. Fenton's capital pantomime and for some very good dancing by the corps de ballet.

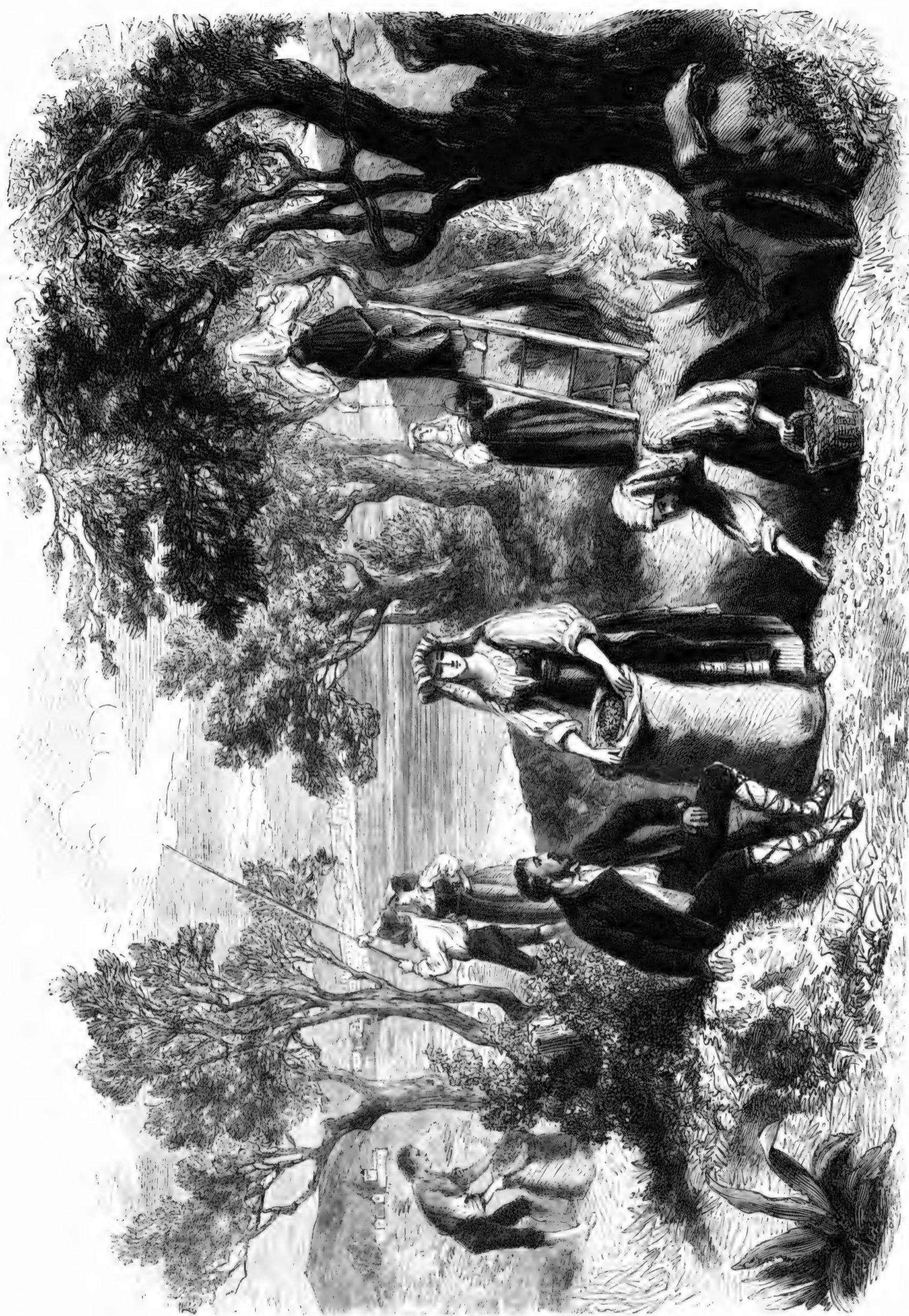
The burlesques at the LYCEUM, OLYMPIC, ST. JAMES'S, and STRAND will be noticed next week.

THE QUEEN AND THE ROYAL FAMILY.—We are glad to be able to report that her Majesty the Queen continues to bear her recent bereavement with fortitude. Her Majesty enjoys several hours' sleep each night, and during the day is calm and resolute. The King of the Belgians, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the Prince of Bélgium, and other distinguished relatives of her Majesty and her late Consort, together with the Prince of Wales and the rest of the Royal children who are in England, have been with the Queen, and have contributed all in their power to lighten her heavy grief. Her Majesty continues to receive addresses of condolence and sympathy from corporations and other public bodies, as well as from all ranks of her subjects. Drs. Watson and Jenner, together with Sir Henry Holland and Sir James Clark, have received the special thanks of her Majesty for their exertions on the occasion of the illness of her late illustrious Consort. A report which was current that her Majesty intended to open the Great Exhibition in person has been officially contradicted. Before the death of the Prince Consort it had been arranged that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was to spend some months of the winter in the Levant and Syria, visiting, of course, Malta and Corfu on his way. We understand that this programme will be adhered to, notwithstanding the melancholy event which has intervened, and that his Royal Highness will shortly leave for the East, returning in time to take part in the opening of the Great Exhibition.

DEPUTATIONS TO EARL RUSSELL ON THE AMERICAN DIFFICULTY.—Deputations from religious denominations, and other parties, were received by Earl Russell on Friday week, when memorials in favour of a pacific solution, if possible, of the pending dispute with the Federal Government of America were presented. His Lordship, in reply to the memorialists, said he wished it to be understood how entirely he sympathised with their sentiments in favour of peace, and the great calamity of a war between Great Britain and the Federal Government of the United States. But until the proposition they had sent out had received a reply, the deputation could not expect any distinct statement from him. He, however, said the demand the Government had made was obviously most just, and had not been presented in an offensive manner. The whole bearing of the Earl was respectful, and he was much more free in his reply, considering the delicacy of the state of affairs, than could have been expected.

THE LATE LADY CANNING.—The *Friend of India* pays the following tribute to this lamented lady:—"In the darkest gloom of the mutiny Lady Canning was popular, if such a bold expression can be used of a lady whose virtues were of a different class from those which excite the applause of crowds. She has lived to see her husband's reputation, which she ever watched with an eager earnestness, rise equal to the opportunities that he has enjoyed, though she has not been spared to share in those honours which await him in England. Cut off at the early age of forty-four, after spending six years of an active life in the East, and after journeying so many thousand miles without a day's illness, she has not lived to be welcomed by her Majesty, who, but two years younger than herself, admitted her to a closer friendship than generally exists between Sovereign and subject. Whether presiding with a rarely-equalled dignity and grace in the circles which surrounded the Viceroy, or acting as the active patroness of institutions to educate the young, tend the sick, clothe the naked, and feed the hungry—whether dispensing her own private charities with a liberal hand or proving her interest in art and science by her warm encouragement and personal labours—it may be said that never has the wife of a Governor-General so worthily filled that place, or won for herself, and now, alas! for her memory, so respectful an affection in every breast. On her no higher eulogium can be passed than this—that she has been to India all that the Sovereign whom she was privileged to call friend is to England."

NAVAL VOLUNTEERS.—A notice has been issued by Captain Wodehouse, of her Majesty's ship *Russel*, that the coast volunteers of the Falmouth district may be required to assemble at the shortest notice, to man gun-boats for the protection of Falmouth and other ports on the south coast. Information has been communicated to the naval volunteers for the coast defence in the neighbourhood of Anstruther, Scotland, to hold themselves in readiness for immediate service. This unexpected intelligence excited, as might be expected, not a little sensation in the fishing towns of Cellardyke, Pittenweem, and St. Monance, as nearly a hundred of the fishermen are enrolled in the force. The prospect of their services being required was hailed with lively satisfaction.



GATHERING OLIVES IN ITALY.

THE OLIVE-GATHERING.

Of all fruits—although it is rarely eaten by any of either the middle or the lower class of English people—the olive would seem to be of the most importance, both here and on the continent of Europe. The great variety of purposes to which olive oil is applied in the preparation of food and in medical prescriptions, as well as some manufactures, makes the cultivation of the olive-tree a valuable part of the labour of the countries where it flourishes.

From Mogadore, Gallipoli, Leghorn, Genoa, Nice, Marseilles, and Bordeaux the cargoes of olive oil are brought to London and find a ready market; while on every part of the Continent the consumption is perhaps greater than our own. The only care which is demanded by the olive tree in those countries where the genial sun ripens its fruit is the pruning of those superfluous branches which in winter crackle in the chimneys of the neighbouring cottages, which fuel is rendered even more effectual by being mingled with the refuse of the fruit—that is to say, the crushed pulp and stones from which the oil has already been extracted. Indeed, considering the great importance of this article of natural produce, its whole cultivation is as simple as, or even more simple than, the growing of cabbages.

When the first cold of December commences, the delicate fruit, having been all the summer ripening into its full maturity, the ripest of the luscious crop fall from the branches and are gathered from the ground by children: those which remain are plucked by the girls of the villages, who look upon the olive harvest as a light sort of labour easily combined with amusement, and generally enlighten it with songs more or less melodious. In some places, however, men are employed to gather in the fruit, and, too lazy to exert themselves, beat the branches with poles, and by this practice seriously damage the crop. Having been carefully divided, according to their several degrees of ripeness, the olives are placed in sacks and heaped together for several days before being transported to the mill, with which operation the whole proceeding is finished, and agriculture gives place to manufacture.

WOOLNER'S BUST OF TENNYSON.

THERE is in human nature a peculiar yearning to look upon the bodily presences of those whose intellectual gifts or striking achievements have deeply and permanently impressed us. Thus, who does not look with a certain awe and reverence on even the common plaster casts and coarse prints of Shakespeare, Milton, Scott, Napoleon, Nelson, Wellington, which are hawked about the streets and adorn the walls or fill up the odd niches of the humblest



BUST OF ALFRED TENNYSON, POET LAUREATE.—(WOOLNER, SCULPTOR.)

dwelling among us? And if the interest never flags with which we look upon even these rude delineations of our great ones, how much more intense must be the emotion that moves as when the subject is brought before our eye with all the advantages and charms which the genius and skill of the true artist can throw around his subject! In the case of Mr. Thomas Woolner's bust of Tennyson, of which we this week print an Engraving, this advantage is pre-eminently conspicuous; for, while idealising the features, Mr. Woolner has been singularly successful in producing a striking and exact likeness of his subject. We have thus at once placed before us the man as he lives and moves among other men, and at the same time catch a glimpse of what may be imagined to be the expression of his face when under the influence of some high and holy inspiration. To realise both these ideas in the same work is no easy task, but this task Mr. Woolner has successfully achieved; and hence the cordial commendations which have been generally bestowed upon his admirable bust of the greatest living votary of the Muse.

THE NEW BANKRUPTCY ACT.
EXAMINATION IN WHITECROSS-STREET PRISON.

A FEW WORDS are necessary to explain the subject of our Illustration, representing one of the Registrars in Bankruptcy attending at Whitecross-street Prison to examine prisoners applying for their discharge under the new Bankruptcy Act.

Passing through the narrow passage dividing two of the exercising or airing yards of the prison, and which, with their tall iron bars, look more like two great cages for the confinement of wild beasts than simple debtors, we are shown by one of the officers—whose uniform reminds us of Coldbath-fields, Holloway, or Millbank Prisons—into a largeish room, in which are one or two individuals with a strong Jewish cast of countenance, and are directed to walk up the stairs leading out of one corner of the room. We accordingly do so; and on reaching the top find ourselves in the presence of the gentleman the administration of whose powers of unloosing the prisoners' bonds we have come to witness. We are not impressed by any means with the appearance of the room in which the presiding Judge is located. It may be described as decidedly snug; and the eight or nine people we find in it, including the Registrar and his clerk, are quite sufficient to fill it. There is nothing imposing about the place. No wigs and gowns to strike awe into vulgar minds—no usher to bawl "Silence!"—no raised bench to elevate the presiding officer, who is seated in a simple Windsor chair, and who, in consequence



EXAMINATION OF DEBTORS IN WHITECROSS-STREET PRISON, WITH A VIEW TO THEIR DISCHARGE UNDER THE NEW BANKRUPTCY ACT.

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